



## Summary

**Industry:** Dairy cow

### Client profile

AFO is one of the major associations of dairy cow farmers in Spain. AFO manages 83 farms with 15,000 cows. Main focus is livestock and health improvement.

### Offices

Vic (Barcelona)

### Business Status

AFO was using a MSDOS-based system, together with several Microsoft Access databases. Over time, the adjustments to new requirements became a growing problem.

### Solution

To assure continuing system updates and flexibility, the Association decided to deploy Vaquitec Studio as their information-management system.

### Benefits

- Better services for associates.
- Data entry is less time-consuming
- Error reduction.
- Better autonomy.

“With Vaquitec we integrated all the data sources we had scattered into a single one. It’s a simple, but a powerful program, all at the same time...”

Joan Serra, AFO’s Director

AFO is one of the major associations of dairy cow farmers in Spain. AFO manages 83 farms with 15,000 cows. Their main focus is livestock improvement. Formerly AFO used a MS DOS-based system to manage information. They also developed additional databases in Microsoft Access to manage data that the application could not handle. Due to system retrains and the difficulties adjusting to increasing requirements, AFO decided to upgrade their system. They chose Agritec Software’s Vaquitec for dairy management. With Vaquitec, they have greatly improved the services offered to their associates. Time spent using the application has been reduced, along with errors, and adjustment to new requirements is no longer a concern.



Associació Frisona d'Osona



“One of the improvements of the new system is the capability to create custom reports by ourselves”.

Joan Serra  
AFO's Director

## Situation

AFO is one of the major associations of dairy cow farmers in Spain. AFO manages 83 farms with 15000 cows. Their main objective is improvement in genetics and animal production. This includes milk production control, genealogy, and genetic selection of Holstein cattle. Data collection and processing is necessary to achieve these objectives.

The associated farmers fill paper forms with delivery and insemination data, along with other relevant information. The company sends monthly data on milk quality directly to the association responsible for quality assessment.

In 1985, AFO deployed a DBase & Clipper-based system in MS DOS to manage information. Additionally, they developed databases with Microsoft Access to manage data that could not be handled by the installed application. In 2004, AFO considered changing the software due to increasing requirements, the desire to integrate all systems, and to optimize the data collection process.

Joan Serra, AFO's Director remembers: “When we decided to change our system, we evaluated different software solutions for over a year. Finally, we decided to implement Vaquitec since it covers all the needs we have put forward. Another important reason was Agritec's willingness to make customized modifications to the software”.

## Solution

For this new solution, AFO defined seven objectives:

- Import all data managed by the current systems into Vaquitec.
- Manage all production and reproductive data.
- Capability of the Association to create custom reports.
- Database can be accessed from any computer inside or outside the Association.
- Dairy farmers can use Vaquitec or a PDA in the same farm.
- Dairy farmers using Vaquitec or a PDA can send data to the association automatically.
- Vaquitec can export and import data with information systems from other Associations (Conafe, Fefric, ...)

Vaquitec Client/Server database was installed on the server of the Association. This type of installation allows dozens of users connected to the network to access the data simultaneously.

Vaquitec Studio was installed for associates who decided to use Vaquitec or a PDA in their own farms. This solution allows dairy farmers to enter data directly into a computer or PDA and create reports at any time. They no longer have to wait for the Association's results. Data is sent to the Association via the internet, and the dairy farmer saves time by not having to fill out paper forms.

## For more information

about Agritec product and services, visit [www.agritecsoft.com](http://www.agritecsoft.com)

Joan Serra says: "For us, it was critical that Agritec could modify some parts of the program to adjust it to our specific needs."

AFO also requested a comprehensive evaluation of all the data entered to minimize errors.

One of the problems with the former system was that it was impossible to correct some data once it was entered. "Now with Vaquitec, we can modify any data, no matter how old or detailed it was," Joan added.

## Benefits

Vaquitec provides a comprehensive set of reports that AFO uses to achieve their objective of livestock improvement.

Serra states: "With Vaquitec, we can monitor the production of all farms to detect any deviation from the standard and rapidly apply any appropriate measures".

### Time Saving in Daily Routines

Time saving has been possible in many ways:

- It is no longer necessary to import/export data from multiple databases created to offset the deficiencies of the old system. Vaquitec manages all data in one single database.
- Some associates use Vaquitec or a PDA in the farm to enter data and send it directly to AFO.
- Vaquitec allows the import of data from organizations like Conafe, Semega, etc. Importers can easily be added.

- Can generate calving reports, books and documents required by managers and associates.
- Allows the use of bar codes in reports to speed up data entry.

### Error reduction

Due to the integration of all existing databases into a single one, the possibility of errors has decreased considerably.

### Great Flexibility in Collaborative Work

Now multiple users can make queries or enter data simultaneously. With the old system, only one person could access the database at one time.

### Autonomy

The report designer included in Vaquitec allows AFO to create any report, form, logbook, etc. with no need to depend on the software manufacturer.

Serra asserts: "The project that we have deployed with Vaquitec has created better interaction between our centralized data service and the farms, allowing an increase in information sharing and improvements in accuracy." Looking forward, the association plans to implement Vaquitec in most of their associate farms, with the objective of obtaining data updated on a daily basis and 100% automatically. The server will generate reports that will be published in the Web without human intervention.