

# 10 Steps for Conducting Research on Your Farm or Ranch



## Lesson 7 Worksheet Analyze Your Data

The full workbook is available online or to order in print at [www.sare.org/research-workbook](http://www.sare.org/research-workbook).

### ASSIGNMENT

If you need help with any of the following questions, or if you're unsure of your answers, Lesson 10 contains some suggestions of where to find help.

1. Ensure that all of your data has passed QC checks. What were the most common errors you found?

2. Enter all data into one or more tables for analysis (you don't need to include your table on this sheet). The first column should contain the identifier for the observations (such as a plot or sample number), and each subsequent column should represent a variable. Each row should represent an individual observation. Be sure to clearly label the column headers and to specify the units you're using.

**Example:**

| Ear tag number | Calving date, 2025 (MM/DD) | Calf weight (pounds) | Calf sex (M/F) | Calf VIGOR score (1-25) |
|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 247-A          | 2/25                       | 68                   | F              | 23                      |
| 329            | 2/25                       | 77                   | M              | 19                      |
| 515            | 2/27                       | 69                   | F              | 21                      |

Please list the title(s) of your table(s) here. Also list the column headers for each table.

*Continued*

3. List some of the useful summary statistics you might use to describe your data.

4. List any statistical tests you'll perform to understand your results. Identify people or other resources you'll use to ensure you perform these tests and interpret their results correctly.

5. Given the nature of your data and analyses, what types of graphs do you feel would best express your findings? Are there any other visuals that you'd include?

6. Does anything stand out from your analysis that surprises you?

### ASSIGNMENT SELF-EVALUATION

1. Does your analysis tell a story?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Is there a “take-home message?”

2. Do the results of your analysis match with your impressions and experience throughout the project?

☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Could someone who is completely unfamiliar with your projects understand what your results mean?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If not, what can you do to make things clearer?