

AGROBASE Generation II

Common Issues and Their Solutions

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Labels and Reports

I want to print really long pedigrees on my labels, but my labels are not wide enough to handle the text on one line. I can decrease the font, but it is really small. I have room on my labels to print the pedigree field on two lines. Is there a word wrap feature in AGROBASE? Answer: With the label designer open, click on the pedigree field. When you see the small rectangles (“object handles”) on the end of the pedigree object, drag and drop the object by the object handle in the middle lower side. By dragging down the distance of one line, this will wrap the text on the two lines. Remember that all text field objects can be re-sized vertically as well as horizontally.

How can I print labels onto a tractor-feed printer? I can't seem to make this work with the label generator. Answer: In all cases, printing labels on a tractor-feed printer is more complicated than printing to sheet-fed printers. The Windows print engine prints on a “page” basis and AGROBASE must deal with this when printing labels. The work-around is to create a custom label form in the Windows print engine that matches the size of one label and then print to that custom form using an AGROBASE report (FRX) file from the report generator instead of a label (LBX) file. See the Help system for more instructions on how to accomplish this.

What's the easiest way to print labels for many experiments or nurseries, but change the title or description text each time without having to modify the label? Answer: Use the “_usertitle” special memory, wherein you enter your new text via the Title box on the main label interface after you click on the (•) “Label” bullet.

In printing labels, the last label is only partially printed at the bottom of each page with part of the text essentially truncated. How can I fix this? Answer: You probably need to adjust the actual print area of the label sheet. With the label designer active, click “File->Page Setup->”, and in the Print Area box click “Whole Page” or “Printable Page,” typically the other option than used previously. You might also want to check your “Page Setup” for the printer and the label width and margins for any fine-tuning.

When trying to preview a report or label template in a different experiment table than the one it was created in, I got this message “Error #13 Alias ZWBOK0.DBF not found.” The alias always comes up different, but starting with a “Z”. How do I fix this? Answer: Open the report or label template and double click on one of the field expression boxes (such as PLOT or EXPT) and check to see that only the field name exists in the expression box. If any read as ZWBOK0.PLOT, for example, then delete the "ZWBOK0.DBF" so only PLOT remains. To prevent this in the future, you should select (•) “Never add alias”.

Data Import/Export

I'm importing date data with Excel, and my date information imports incorrectly. How do I fix this? Answer: Make sure you use mm/dd/yy or mm/dd/yyyy format, and not dd/mm/yy or any other different format. If you do, some will be blank since they are invalid. Use the date setting in

your control panel that governs this. This also applies to exporting to Excel and then importing that field back into Generation II.

Viewing and Accessing Your Data

When I open one of my nurseries and another one of my experiments, I get Error #36 with the message “Command contains unrecognized phrase/keyword”, and I cannot access my data. What is happening? Answer: You have a trait name that is also used by the computer language that runs the software. This is checked by the most recent versions of AGROBASE Generation II, preventing the import of traits with such “reserved words” (like “WHEN”, “WHILE”, etc.) and also creating them within Generation II. However, a previous research group or older version might have allowed this trait to appear in the research group. To view your nursery or experiment, right-click on the nursery or experiment name, and from “Display Options” de-select from viewing the trait that might causing the problem. Later, you will need to double-click on the Traits main node, “View All Traits”, and edit the trait name responsible for the errors. If you are not certain which trait is causing the problems, then export (“Save As”) all the open trait names into an Excel sheet and send it to us so that we can help you.

When modifying treatments or traits, and occasionally in a few other operations, we get an unexpected message “More than one user is in the database! Cannot Edit.” However, there is only 1 user. This effectively locks us out of some of our daily operations in the software. What causes this, and how can it be fixed? Answer: The most likely cause is an abnormal exit from the software, especially as it may happen over a LAN, wherein the file counter keeping track of the number of users logged in is not re-set to zero. We suggest that you run Checkdbc2.exe, and “Utilities> Fix Fields”. If that doesn't resolve your problem, send us SC001.dbf and SC001.cdx from that research group's folder.

Data Analysis

When doing an analysis of variance with ACB across locations, I got this message “A problem was encountered. Non-orthogonal Term: LOC.” What’s wrong? Answer: The locations do not have an equal number of blocks, thus the dataset is unbalanced or non-orthogonal -- not an equal number of levels for each factor in the linear model. Try using GLM to analyze the unbalanced data, or filter out the uneven blocks. You might have a filter applied incorrectly, or your data was imported and the original dataset was unbalanced. To analyze with ACB, you will need complete, balanced blocks and all other factors like entries, locations, main or split plots depending upon the design, and so forth.

When analyzing data, I got this message “A problem was encountered. Non-orthogonal Term :LOC. Press OK”. This did happen when I was trying to analyze across locations. How do I prevent this? Answer: This is caused when each term in the model is not equally present. For your locations, some locations had more records than others. Maybe an entry was missing at a location, or a block was dropped? The solution is to either use GLM for this unbalanced dataset, or analyze each location separately and then in the GxE analyses use the “RCBD Across Locations” option where a combined analysis across locations will be performed, even for differing numbers of blocks.

Data Transformations

I have entered date data, for days when an entry matured. How can I convert this to numeric number of days elapsed so that I can do an analysis of variance? Answer: You first create a numeric field or trait to store those values, if you haven't already. Let's call it "MATURITY", numeric. Then you can either make a data transformation ("calculated trait") or use an expression directly to create the new values. If we do the latter, which is simplest, then click Edit->Transform Field Data, and enter in an equation like this: CTOD("08/01/2009")-MATDATE. That is, convert to character from the August 1 2009 to a date expression and subtract it from the stored date values. The result will be the number of days elapsed from August 1 in this example.

Logical Expression and Conditions

We are now using AGROBASE Generation II from Terminal Services. We moved all the research groups from the former PCs and a server, and yet now the logical expressions that we use from Edit->Transform Field Data and for filtering seem to have disappeared. What happened? Answer: Functions for calculated traits within experiments/nurseries (accessed via the Transform button below the experiment grid), are stored in a research group in the AF0002 table. As such, these functions will always be found within the research group.

Functions for fixed calculated traits (accessed via the "Edit->Transform Field Data" menu), are stored in the AGB_COND.DBF table which is in the DATA subfolder of the individual AGROBASE installation. These functions can only be accessed on the computer they were created on unless you copy the AGB_COND.DBF file to the DATA subfolder on each computer running AGROBASE. We recommend that you combine all of the functions your users need into a single table and then copy that to each computer. In the case of Terminal Services, a single AGB_COND.DBF is shared by all users since they are all sharing the same AGROBASE installation. If the original file (or files) was not migrated when the system was setup on Terminal Services, the file could still be copied to the Terminal Services installation and the functions would be found. If you have multiple AGB_COND.DBF files with different functions, you can send them to us if you like and we will combine them for you. Note that in AGROBASE SQL, the AGB_COND.DBF file has been removed and the functions are stored in the SQL application database. The functions can be saved and accessed by all AGROBASE users.

Research Group Maintenance and Usage

When using our 1-concurrent user LAN version, I got this error "More than one user is in the database! Cannot Edit", but there is only 1 user. This has happened when modifying treatments. How can we fix this? Answer: Run Checkdbc2.exe: Utilities> Fix Fields. If that doesn't fix it, then send us these files from the research group's folder: SC001.dbf & and SC001.cdx. We will fix the file and send it back to you. Sometimes, an abnormal exit from AGROBASE Generation II will cause this. Note that this can happen for any number of concurrent users. Maybe you have a 4-concurrent user license, and three people sign on, and the software won't let you in, or no one can access it from among all the registered users. The same steps are involved to fix this.

I had to re-install my AGROBASE Generation II after changing computers, and now all I can access is the DEMO research group. How can I access my former data? Answer: Go to "File->Change Research Group" and then "Join". Enter the name of your research group and the folder wherein your data is found, and then "Open" your research group, which will now be the default research

group that appears upon start-up. This would be the same steps in your hard-disk was replaced and you had to re-install.