

1 Installation

1.1 Download ParlorMeter.jar or ParlorMeterDemo.jar.

- 1.1a Click on the download link provided to you and ParlorMeter.jar will be saved to your Downloads folder.
- 1.2b Depending on your computer's settings it will listed as ParlorMeter or ParlorMeter.jar.

1.2 Create a new folder to store ParlorMeter.jar and the results from all farm sessions.

- 1.2a ParlorMeter.jar may be stored anywhere on your computer. Most users create a ParlorMeter folder on their desktop.
- 1.2b Copy ParlorMeter.jar into the ParlorMeter folder you created. Find ParlorMeter.jar in your Downloads folder, drag or copy it to your ParlorMeter folder.

1.3 Run ParlorMeter.jar

- 1.3a To run ParlorMeter, simply double click on the ParlorMeter.jar icon.
- 1.3b ParlorMeter is a Java program and therefore you must have Java loaded on your computer. If ParlorMeter does not open, follow the directions under 'Potential Issues' to load Java

1.4 ParlorMeter.jar saved work.

- 1.4a Results from ParlorMeter are saved in the same folder as your ParlorMeter.jar application. Results are stored by Farm name and date of the session (BigFarm 2015-06-27-1143). If a farm name is not entered results will be saved as "ParlorMeter 2015-06-27-1143". Results will be saved in Excel spread sheet format and Prep Lag Times will be stored as images that are easy to share with workers, managers, etc...

2 ParlorMeterDemo.jar vs ParlorMeter.jar

2.1 Demo versions have all the functionality of the full program but are limited to work for a short period of time. When you open a Demo version it will let you know the expiration date of that Demo. After the Demo expires you will still be able to access all saved data in your ParlorMeter folder, but you will not be able run ParlorMeter.jar.

2.2 Activation of ParlorMeter.jar

- 2.2a ALERT: YOU WILL NEED TO ACTIVATE PARLORMETER BEFORE YOU CAN USE IT. YOU WILL NEED AN INTERNET CONNECTION TO ACTIVATE PARLORMETER.
- 2.2b You will not be able to use ParlorMeter until it has been activated and payment has been received.
- 2.2c The first time you open ParlorMeter.jar you will be provided with a unique device code and will be prompted for an activation code. You must email that device code to FronSoftware@gmail.com to obtain an activation code. This is a one-time activation. Once ParlorMeter.jar is activated, you will have unlimited use of the program.

3 How to use ParlorMeter

3.1 ParlorMeter was designed by veterinarians to evaluate the milking process.

Measurements are taken to evaluate efficiency in the Parlor, (First cow to Stall, Time until cow is Prepped, Time until all units on, Maximum time units on, Time to complete one side of the parlor) Calculations are made to find the PLT, Prep Lag Time for each cow, average pass time for each worker, etc..

3.2 The opening screen is a "Farm Info and stall#" panel. This is a blue panel with Green Buttons ("Update Information" or "Cancel")

- 3.2a The default set-up is for a double 20 Parlor with two workers. Worker one will be milking cows #1-10 and worker two will be milking cows #11-20. The default set up also uses an ideal prep lag time of 90 to 120 seconds.
- 3.2b A user will have enough time to register the first and last cow that a worker preps and applies milking units.
- 3.2c If your farm has a double 24 with three workers, your set up may be as follows.

Worker 1	First Cow 1	Last Cow 8
Worker 2	First Cow 9	Last Cow 16
Worker 3	First Cow 17	Last Cow 24
- 3.2d Most users do not enter cow numbers for a middle cow. This feature is currently provided for unique milking systems.

3.3 Your next screen is the main light blue Parlor Meter screen. A blue clock at the top will immediately begin counting up. This clock is meant to time everything that happens once the gate opens to let cows into the side. (At anytime you can hit reset and the times for this side will be reset.) This blue clock will run until the "All Cows Out" button is clicked.

3.4 Start recording milking events

- 3.4a "Cow 1 to stall" – click to record time.
- 3.4b Click a green "Prep Cow #" button as workers prep their first and last cows.
- 3.4c Those same buttons turn yellow and say "Unit On #". You will again click to record when each worker applies units to the first and last cow for which they are responsible.
- 3.4d Once all units are on, you will be supplied with two very important pieces of information. The length of time from the initial opening of the gate to “all units on” will be noted in black just below the big blue timer. Most importantly you will also now be provided with an "estimate" of the percentage of cows that met the ideal prep lag time. (This estimate is a linear calculation based on the prep lag time of the first and last cow. If workers have a consistent pattern to their procedures this will be an accurate estimate.)
- 3.4e At this time you can also click "PLT Graph" to view a nice representation of a workers Prep Lag Times. (On the graph, the green dot represents the first cow prepped and the blue dot represents the last cow prepped.)
- 3.4f On most farms, once all units are on, the gate for the other side of the parlor will open. When this happens, click "Next Side" and the big blue timer will start running on a new panel that will pop up. Start recording milking events for the next side of the parlor
- 3.4g Back on your previous side you can be looking to record "Last Unit Off" and "All Cows Out" (Many users have trouble focusing on the previous side to remember to click Last Unit off or All Cows Out, but if you are looking for particular information these two options can be very helpful.)
- 3.4h Repeat this process for as many sides of the parlor as you would like. Currently ParlorMeter can record data for 20 sides of the parlor, but can only graph PLT graphs for 10 sides.
- 3.4i Feel free to close previous sides of the parlor by clicking the red "x" in the corner of the window. As long as one window is open you can continue to work. If you try to close all of the windows you will be prompted to make a decision, "Save and Close", "Do not Save", "Do not Close"

3.5 Save Data

- 3.5a Option1: Close all windows, you will be prompted to "Save and Close".
- 3.5b Option2: In the top left corner is a File menu, you have two options, "Save Data" and "Save Data and Exit all Sides".
- 3.5c Data will be saved in the folder ParlorMeter.jar was located. You will find an Excel file and image files for the PLT results for each worker. (See comment 1.4 above)

3.6 Windows menu - all options are toggle. Click menu once to view, Click menu again to hide.

- 3.6a Farm Info and Stall# - it is possible to change your milking set up at any point, but it is best to use the same set up for the whole milking. (If you would like to add or subtract workers or change stall numbers during a session it might be best to save the session you are working on and start ParlorMeter.jar again.)
- 3.6b Pass Time Panel - displays average pass time of each worker for prep and units on passes
- 3.6c Results PLT Panel - displays percent of cows with ideal PLT. Also displays buttons for PLT graphs.
- 3.6d Error Panel - In case of a program error, please contact us. We may not be able to recover your data, but we would like to learn of any bugs so that they can be fixed.

4 Support

4.1 Email Support – Our standard purchase comes with one year of support and critical updates. If you have any questions or issues within one year from your time of purchase contact us at FronSoftware@gmail.com

4.2 Phone Support – We are not set up to provide phone support, but if you have an issue within one year from your time of purchase that cannot be resolved by email, we will contact you by phone to work through your problem.

5 Potential Issues:

5.1 Requires Java version 1.6 or higher. Most computers already have Java installed. You probably get annoying reminders to update your java version. (If ParlorMeter.jar does not open when you click on it, it is possible that Java is not installed.) Here is a link to download Java. <https://java.com/en/download/>

5.2 Parlor Meter is not currently listed with your other programs. To run Parlor Meter, simply double click on the ParlorMeter icon in the Parlor Meter folder.

5.3 Mac Users. Parlor Meter has been tested extensively with Windows. Most aspects of the program will work with a Mac. If you would like to use a Mac we suggest you request a Demo version.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Fronhofer Software, FronSoftware@gmail.com

If you have an idea of how Parlor Meter could be customized to suit your business needs, please let us know.