

# CUTTING THE FAT FROM FEED MANAGEMENT

## Digi-Star, LLC

Digi-Star is dedicated to the development, production, and marketing of electronic weighing systems for the global agricultural market. Digi-Star also manufactures specialized transducers for precision farming applications, proprietary controllers and monitors for original equipment manufacturers. Started in 1981, Digi-Star is located in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.



## Watching the Bottom Line

Digi-Star wanted a more convenient, easy-to-use way for farmers to upload and download data. Digi-Star had formerly made their own “hand-grenade” shaped portable memory device but found setting up production to be too costly. Digi-Star decided their new data transport device needed to be:

- ✓ Easy for the farmer to use
- ✓ Rugged and reliable to stand up to the harsh feed-lot environment
- ✓ Fully engineered to reduce R&D costs and time-to-market
- ✓ Available and supported long-term to avoid expensive re-design and implementation costs

## The Solution is Key

Digi-Star selected Datakey Electronics SFK1Mb Key for its large memory capacity, rugged and reliable construction, and off-the-shelf availability. The Digi-Star Indicator is mounted with the feed mixer on a truck or trailer. The user inserts the SFK1Mb Key at the start of the mixing cycle to upload the “recipe.” After dispensing the feed, the user then inserts and turns the SFK1Mb to write the actual feed mixture attained back to the Key. Digi-Star provides a



custom PC docking station to interface the SFK1Mb Key to a standard PC for uploading and downloading data. DigiStar also provides DTU Software (Data Transfer Utilities) and TMR Tracker® software for a complete feed management solution. The SFK Series of Keys features Datakey Electronics’ industry-leading solid molded construction, rugged wear-resistant exterior, and long-lasting contacts. Unlike other cards and carriers that can easily fail, the Key’s body protects the embedded memory chip from physical damage and harsh environmental influences. They can be sterilized, dropped in the mud, washed, exposed to electromagnetic fields or chemicals—and they’ll still work. The feed-lot environment is especially hard on electronics, so this is a major vote of confidence in Datakey Electronics’ products.

## Fully-Engineered

The SFK1Mb Key inserts into a mating KC4210PCB Keyceptacle® designed into the bottom of the Digi-Star unit. The Datakey Electronics’ KC4210PCB Keyceptacle is a high-cycle life mating receptacle that offers tactile confirmation when a Key is inserted and turned. There is also a LOFO contact that may be used to protect the host bus by ensuring that Key has made secure contact with the receptacle before any signals are transmitted.



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### **T**hey Chose Datakey Electronics

Digi-Star chose Datakey Electronics as their serial memory device partner because of their long history of providing a rugged product that could withstand the harsh farm environment. The familiar form factor of the Key helps to increase users' comfort level, shortening any user adjustment period. Additionally, Datakey Electronics' 30 years of experience in serial memory devices and fully engineered solutions decreased Digi-Star's R&D costs and time-to-market while providing a product that DigiStar know will be available and supported for the long-term.

**Datakey**<sup>®</sup>  
ELECTRONICS

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