

**NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT.  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICES.**

**Event:** Farmer information day  
**Title:** Record keeping and animal identification  
**Tswaro ya dibuka le matshwao a leruo**

**Presenters: SK Kgaswane**

**Bojanal Platinum District  
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**Agriculture &  
Rural Development**  
Department:  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
North West Provincial Government  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# Introduction

- The **Animal Identification Act No. 6 of 2002**, states that it is by law that all livestock in South Africa must to be marked.
- Each cattle owner must apply for the registration of an identification mark from the Registrar of Animal Identification.
- Purchased animals must be branded within 14 days after he/she becomes the owner of the animal.



# Introduction

- Livestock are marked using assorted identification marks:  
(ear tags, branding, tattooing and ear notching)
- They are marked in different ways for various reasons which include:
  1. For identifying one animal from the other
  2. To prove ownership
  3. For recording purpose



# Methods of identification

## Branding



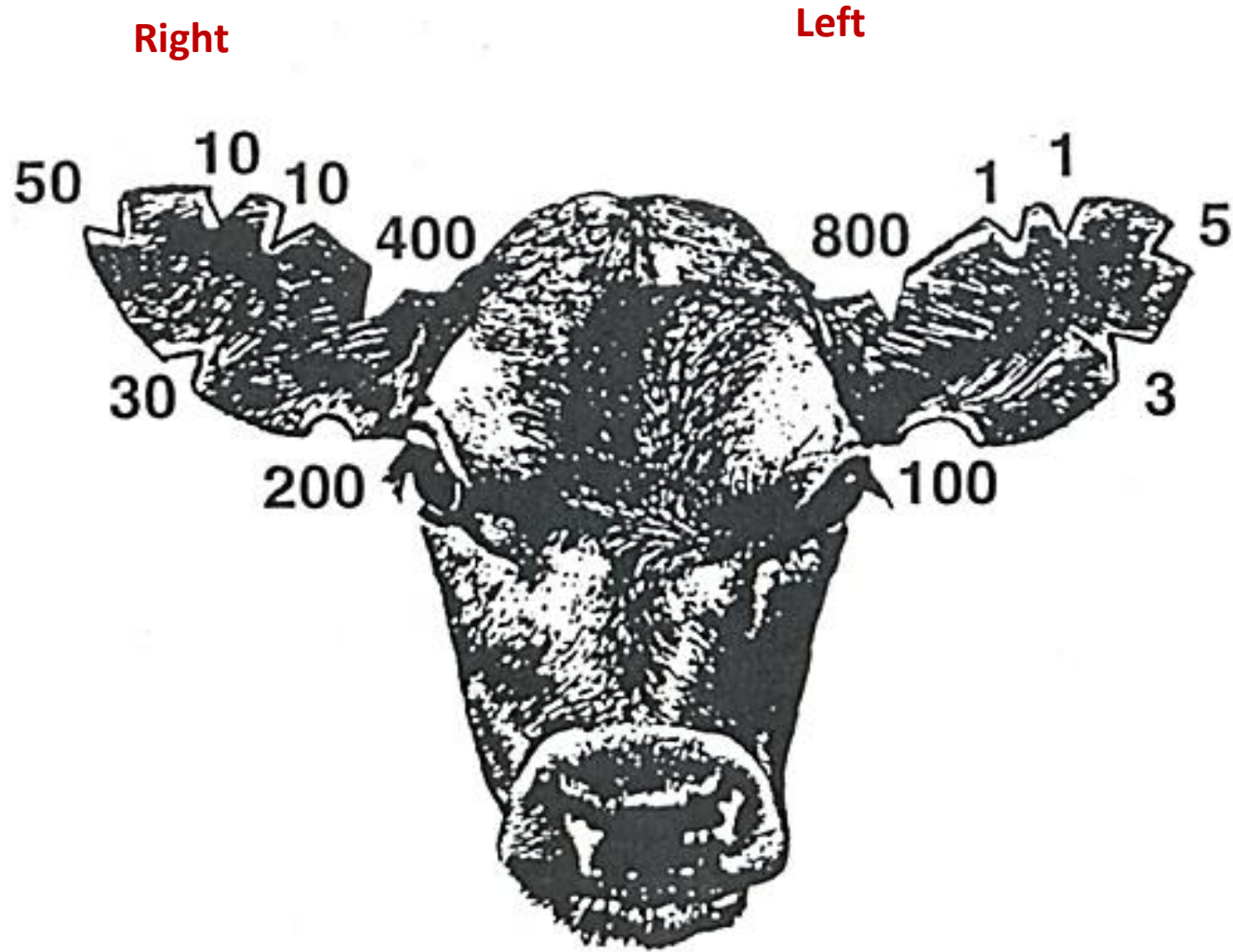
## Ear tags



## Tattooing



# Ear notching



# Record keeping

**“You can’t manage what you don’t measure.”**

**Main need in recording**  
**–Individual ID’s**



# Why keep records?



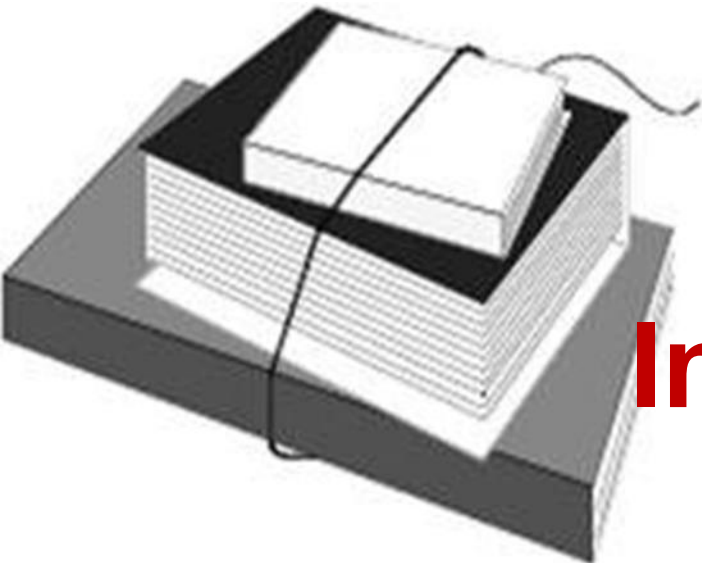
- Used as a management tool
- Records help evaluate herd inventory, maintain biosecurity and track performance of animals in the herd
- Help in decision making and planning: Selection and sales



# What records to keep?



- Production: Number of calves born, Birth weights, Weaning weights, Mortality rates, Fertility test, PD's, *etc*
- Financial: Purchases and sales, loans and accounts



**Income – Expenses = PROFIT**

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# How to keep record?



COW CARDS

ANIMAL ID NO.	SEX	BIRTH DATE	AFC	SIRE	BIRTH WT	CARR WWT	WEAN INDEX	CARR 12mo	CARR 18mo	REMY
	F			ICP						

ANIMAL ID NO.	SEX	BIRTH DATE	AFC	SIRE	BIRTH WT	CARR WWT	WEAN IND	CARR 12mo	CARR 18mo	REMY
	F			ICP						

ANIMAL ID NO.	SEX	BIRTH DATE	AFC	SIRE	BIRTH WT	CARR WWT	WEAN IND	CARR 12mo	CARR 18mo	REMY
	F			ICP						



# Importance of record keeping

- Improves time and resource management
- Improve farm profitability
- Sustain the farm for future generations



## *When recording*

- ✓ *Make sure you record the correct measurement*
  - ✓ *Scale is calibrated at all times.*
- ✓ *Correct sex and birth weight of a calf is of utmost importance.*
  - ✓ *Cows sometimes swop calves.*



# Important records

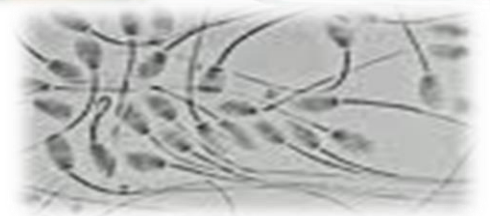


Calve Records	Cow records
Birth date	Calving dates
Birth mass/weight <b>Within 3 days of birth</b>	Pregnancy tests results
Dam and sire ID's	Calving status
Weaning mass & date	Weaning mass
Sex of calve	ICP



# Other records

- Fertility test results of breeding bulls
- Mating dates
- Vaccinations
- Purchases and/sales
- Mortalities



BULL AA03-357 IN 04/12/07  
OUT 08/01/08

$P = \frac{9}{12} = 75\%$  CONCEPTION RATE





“Om te weeg is om te weet”

**KE A LEBOGA! PULA!!!!**

