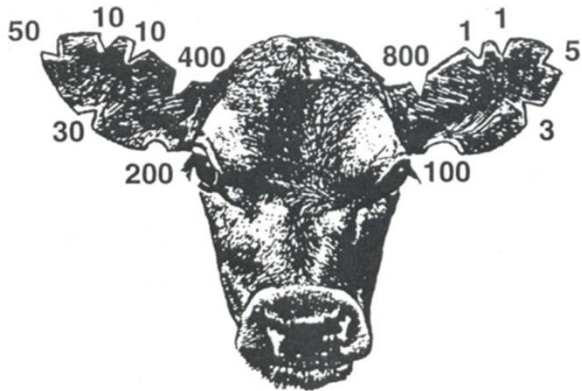


**NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT.  
AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES.**

**DEMONSTRATION ON EAR NOTCHING- CALVES  
11 November 2021**



**KHOMOTSO KGASWANE  
ANIMAL SCIENCE DIVISION**

**018299-6798/072 266 4347  
smashala@nwpg.gov.za**



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



# Introduction

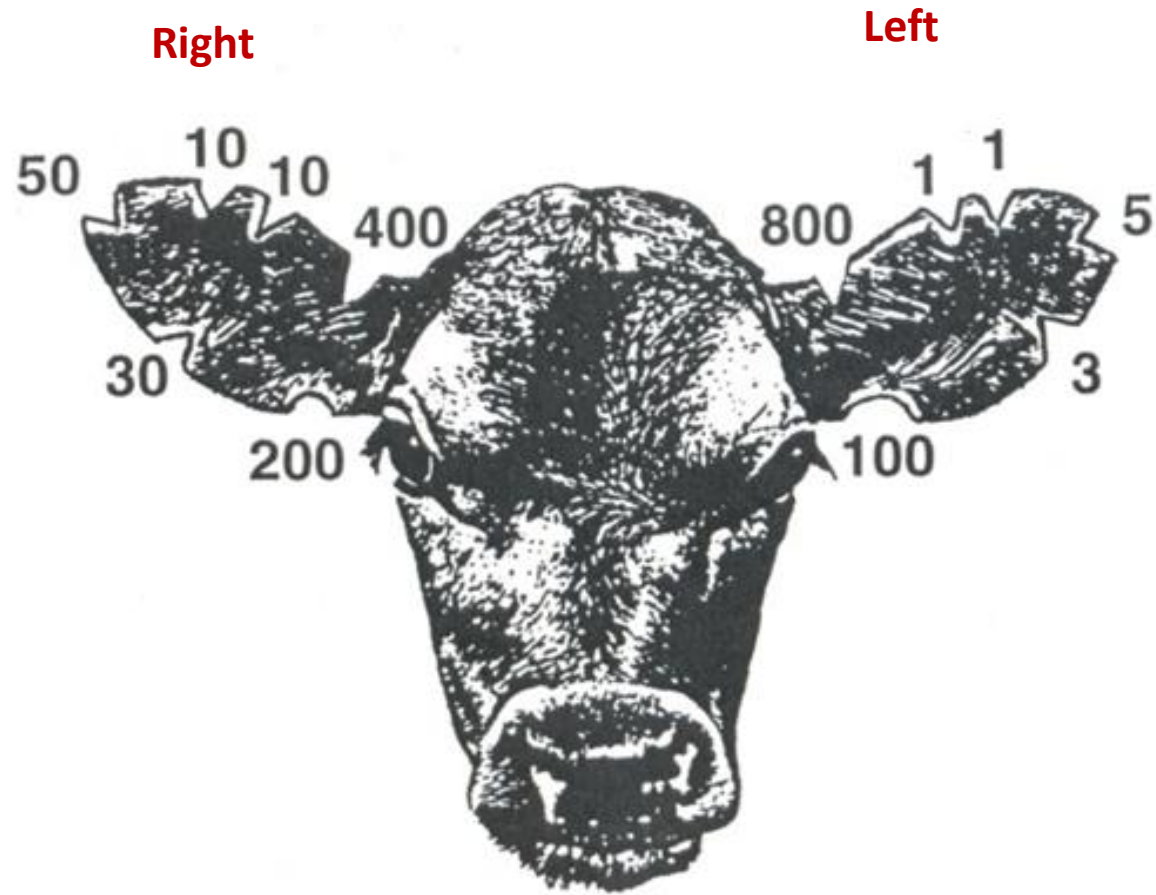
- The **Animal Identification Act, 2002 (Act No. 6 of 2002)**, states that it is by law that all livestock in South Africa must to be marked.
- Each cattle owner must apply for the registration of an identification mark from the Registrar of Animal Identification.
- Purchased animals must be branded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

# Introduction

- Livestock are marked using assorted marks (ear tags, branding, tattooing and ear notching)
- in **a number of different ways** for various reasons which include:
  1. To prove ownership
  2. For record purpose



# Ear notching



# Why ear notching?



- Ear notching of calves within 3 days of birth help in recording
- Is a permanent marker that helps when you are to put in ear tags on later stage
- The same Notch numbering is used on the tags and when branding numbers
- Ear notching is easier to read in case the tags are lost

A photograph of a record book titled "COW CARDS" with three pages visible. Each page has a grid of columns for recording various data points for a cow.

NAME	SEX	BIRTH DATE	AGE	WEIGHT	BIRTH WEIGHT	WEANING WEIGHT	WEANING DATE	WEANING AGE	WEANING HEIGHT	WEANING WITHERS	WEANING Girth	WEANING Tail	WEANING Feet	WEANING Horns	WEANING Ears	WEANING Tail	WEANING Feet	WEANING Horns	WEANING Ears
1001	F		10P																
1002	F		10P																
1003	F		10P																



# Record keeping

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

**“Om te weeg is om te weet”**

**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



# 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







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

