



## Agriculture & Rural Development

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North West Provincial Government  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



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# BRANDING DEMONSTRATION

## BOSKUIL

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# 1. Introduction

- The Animal Identification Act, 2002 (Act No. 6 of 2002), states that it is law that all cattle in South Africa have to be brand marked.
- Hot iron branding is recommended for beef cattle.



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# 1. Introduction Cont....

➤ Livestock are marked using assorted marks ,in a number of different ways for various reasons which include:

1.To prove ownership.

2.For record purpose.



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## 2. Animal Identification Act, 2002 (Act No. 6 of 2002) stipulates:

- 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.



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# 3. WHAT IS BRANDING?

- Branding is a permanent method in which a hot iron is applied directly to the animal's skin.
- It is the placement of a permanent identifying mark on the hide of an animal.



# BRANDING

- Calves must be brand marked at the age of 6-8 months.
- Cattle are branded on the lower part of the left thigh, second owner on the left foreleg, third owner on the right thigh and the fourth owner on the right lower foreleg.



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# 3.1 BRANDING IRONS

➤ Branding irons can be bought from a farmers co-op store.

## Types of brand marks:

1. Each brand letter can be on a single iron.
2. Letters can be on one iron.





# Branding irons, Conti.....

- The height of the letters should be between 40-100mm and space between letters is 12.5 mm.
- Branding irons are welded on to steel rods about 1 meter long



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## 3.2. Different methods of branding.

1. Hot iron branding
2. Freeze branding



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## 3.2.1 Hot iron branding

- The area where the brand is applied must be clean.
- Branding irons must be heated to a dull glow.
- The animal must be restrained and held very still when the brand is applied.



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- The length of time the brand is applied varies from 3-5 seconds, no pressure should be applied.
- Clean water/Ice could be applied to cool off the brand area quickly.
- After branding, apply wounds spray.



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# Hot Iron Branding



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## 3.2.2. Freeze branding

- Specially made, copper-alloy branding irons are cooled in liquid nitrogen .
- The hair is clipped or shaved as short as possible over the area where the brand is to be applied.
- The area must be moistened by methylated spirits.



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# Freeze branding Conti....

- The cold irons are applied for a fixed time period about 20 seconds.
- The pigments producing cells in the skin are destroyed and white hair will grow over the brand



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# 4. Conclusion

- Where theft is a problem, it is required for the owner to identify his property before prosecution can take place.



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