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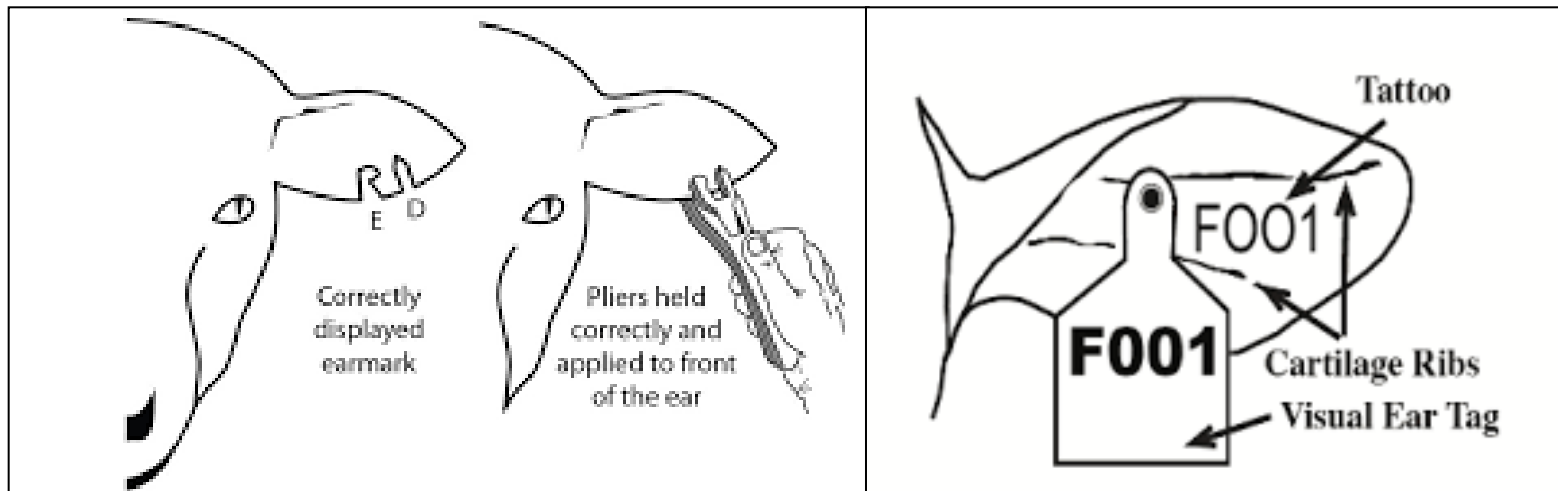
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LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION



Technology Development and Transfer

Date: 26 JULY 2022

venue: Milton

Presenter: TF Kekana



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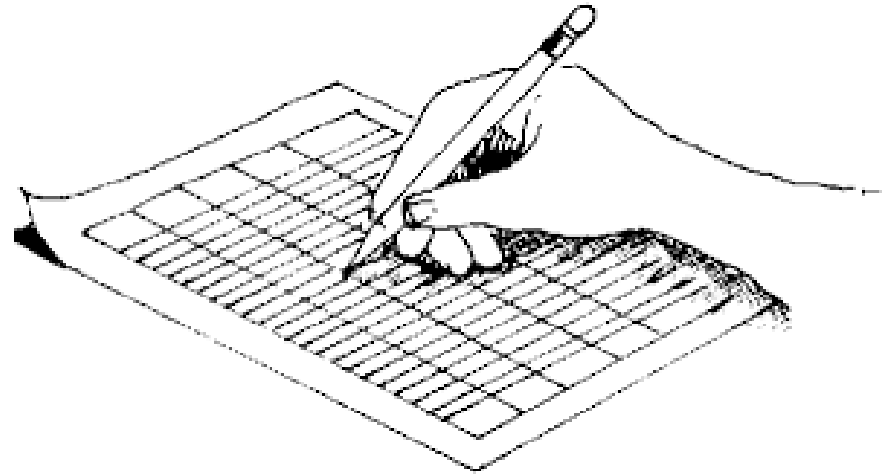
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Introduction

Livestock are marked using assorted marks, reasons which include:

- 1.To prove ownership
- 2.Record keeping



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Methods of identification

Ear notches

- It is easiest and cheapest methods of identification.
- It has been proved to be the best means of first marking new born animals.

A commercial ear-clipper is used.

- Animals are marked according to a standard system (figure 1) in a numerical order



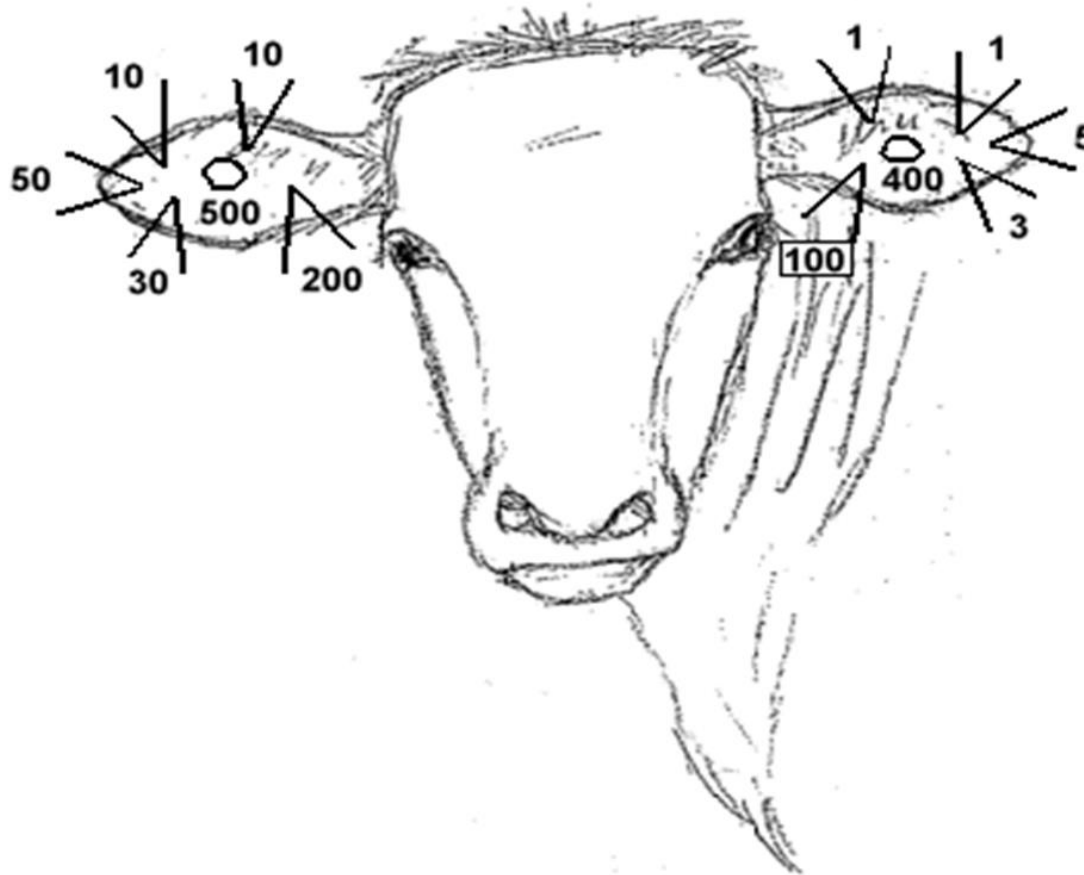
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Ear notches



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Tattooing

- Tattoos are made using spiked letters placed in a pliers like instrument.
- The area where the tattoo is to be applied is the ear (figure 3).
- Tattoo paste, liquid or black stove polish is rubbed vigorously in the hole.
- Tattoos are permanent.
- First owner can put the tattoo on the left ear and second owner on the right ear.



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Tattooing



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Ear tags

- They are easy to apply/insert.
- They get lost, become illegible and soiled.



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Brandings

- Calves must be brand marked at the age **of six months.**
- Cattle are branded on the
 - 1st Lower part of the **left thigh,**
 - 2nd owner on the **left foreleg,**
 - 3rd owner on the **right thigh,**
 - 4th the fourth owner on the **right lower foreleg.**
- Cattle must be branded in order to qualify for breed societies registration.



Different methods of branding

Hot iron branding

- Branding iron are made by mild steel or stainless steel.
- The height of the letters should be approximately 70mm (Livestock Brands Act) and space between letters is 12.5 mm.
- Branding irons are welded on to steel rods about 1 meter long.
- Irons should be red-hot when used and gas fires are also used satisfactory (figure 5)



Hot iron branding



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Freeze branding

- Copper-alloy branding irons are cooled in liquid nitrogen (figure 7)
- The hair is clipped or shaved as short as possible over the area where the brand is to be applied (figure 8).
- The area must be moistened by methylated spirits
- 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.



Freeze branding



Freeze branding



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Conclusion

- Accurate animal identification system are the basis of data collection and is necessary for management practices.
- Identification within a flock/herd is valuable to producers and management to make logical decision based on animal records.
- All identification methods can be useful when used in a correct manner.



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