

Practical Exercise 3

Identification of animals

Objective: *To demonstrate the students various methods of identification of dairy animals*

Introduction

Identification of animals is very essential managerial practice for every farm. It helps in maintenance of different records for proper feeding, health coverage and management. Besides it is pre-requisite for registration of purebred animals, insurance, issuing a certificate etc. Different methods of identification of animals are

- Branding—Hot and Cold
- Tattooing
- Tagging
- Ear notching

1) Branding

Hot branding

Materials required

- Branding iron set

- Firewood
- Dressing oil
- Casting rope
- Body brush
- Cotton

Procedure

- Gets the fire wood burning.
- Keep the branding number4 on fire.
- Cast the animal on a soft ground and secure the legs with rope.
- Clean the thigh with a brush.
- Remove the number with from fire in a dull red condition.
- Gently press the number uniformly on the hide.
- Dab dressing oil on the brand left on hide.
- Apply dressing oil daily.

Cold branding

Materials required

- Cold branding set
- Branding solution
- Shallow disk of porcelain
- Cotton rope

Procedure

- Tie the animal's hind leg.
- Fastens the tail to legs.

- Shake the branding solution and pour it in a shallow porcelain disk.
- Dip the number in branding solution.
- Press the number on the thigh till a clear impression of number is made.
- Do not release the animal for one hour.

2) Tattooing

Materials required

- Tattooing set with numbers
- Tattooing ink
- Cotton
- Spirit

Procedure

- Find out and decide the number to be tattooed.
- Arrange the desired numbers on the tattooing forceps.
- Secure the calf and hold the ear horizontally.
- Locate the place on the inner side of ear between large veins.
- Clean this numbering place with spirit.
- Sterilize the numbers fixed on tattoo set by using spirit.
- Apply some ink on number.
- Hold the tattooing forceps with pad outside and tattoo number inside the ear.
- Press the handle with gentle pressure and hold it for a while.
- Open and remove the tattooing forcep.
- Release the calf.
- Clean the tattoo set properly.

3) Tagging

Materials required

- Forcep for fixing tags
- Metal tags—piercing or non piercing
- Tag punch or penknife
- Spirit/Tincture iodine
- Cotton

Procedure

- Hold the calf properly.
- Sterilize the self piercing tag with spirit or tincture iodine.
- Clean the part of ear to be tagged with spirit.
- Fix the self piercing tag directly with the help of forceps and clinched or locked keeping the number visible outside of upper edge of ear.
- Keep the tag neither tight nor swinging loose on ear.
- Apply tincture iodine to wound.
- In case of non-piercing tag, make a hole on upper edge of ear close to head with central ear notcher or punch sterilized with spirit.
- Place the tag through the hole with numbered side on the back of ear and locked in position with pincers.
- Take care that tag should not be too tight or too loose.
- Apply tincture iodine on wound.

4) Ear notching

Materials required

- Pincers/sharp scissors
- Side and central ear punch

- Tincture iodine or spirit
- cotton

Procedure

- Sterilize the side ear punch and central ear punch.
- Clean the ear with cotton and spirit.
- Side ear notches must be V shaped.
- In case of hole if required make use of sterilized central ear punch.
- Care should be taken not to make notches too small to close up soon and not too large to deform the shape of ear.

Observation

Each student shall tattoo, brand, tag or notch one animal and record following

S.No	Particular	Hot branding	Cold branding	Tattooing	Tagging	Notching
1	Species					
2	Number given					
3	Breed					
4	Sex					
5	Date of birth					
6	Colour					

STUDY QUESTIONS

- 1) What are the different methods of permanent marking of animals for identification ?
- 2) What are the various precautions should be taken during branding, tattooing and notching ?