



Pedigree Identification



EAR MARKING

Every pedigree pig reared in every litter must be ear-marked. Ear-marking must be carried out by the breeder of a pig (the person on whose premises the animal was born), be completed before weaning or mixing with another litter and in any case not later than eight weeks of age.

The basic BPA requirement for ear-marking with regard to Herd Book identification purposes is an ear number and possibly Herd Designation Letters. Commence allocating numbers from 1 for the first litter. Mark each sex separately, starting with males. Each subsequent pig will have a separate number in sequence. Continue the numerical progression with subsequent litters. If you have run out of numbers and have to start again from 1 you will have to add a suffix letter. Wherever possible the identification recorded on the pedigree database should appear on the pig including any suffix letter.

The BPA recommends Tattooing or Notching for Pedigree Identification. If you opt to use tags as your only form of identification you must inform the BPA in writing and follow the rules for double tagging. Pigs for showing must be tattooed or notched.

Double Tagging - Birth notified pigs must be double tagged with identical tags. The recommended format for tags is plastic button tags with HDL and Ear Number on one side and Herdmark on the other side. If a tag is lost it must be replaced by an identical tag. Most manufacturers can supply individual replacement tags.

Birth notified pigs can be identified with ear tattoos, ear notches or double ear tags.

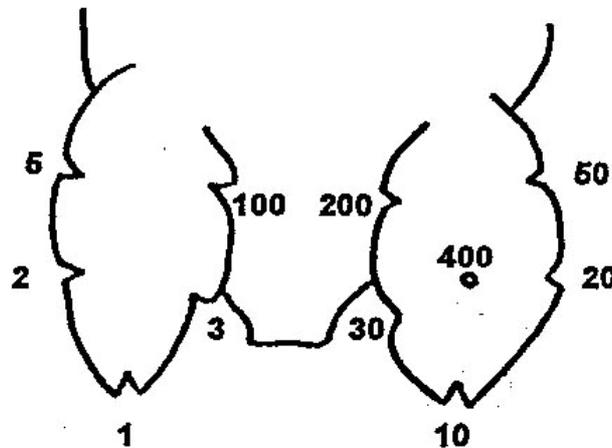
Registered pigs must be identified with ear tattoos, ear notches or double tags. Registered pigs identified with tags **must** be double tagged, one in each ear, the tag numbers must be the same. When tattooed or notched pigs are given ear tags the tags should match the official pedigree ID recorded on the database including any prefix or suffix letters.

Replacement ID. Tattoos fade, Ear notches can get torn and tags can get pulled out. If your registered pig needs a replacement ID you must apply in writing to the BPA. An inspection and DNA testing may be required.

DEFRA As well as complying with the requirements of pedigree identification all pig breeders must follow the rules set out in the Pig Records, Identification and Movements Order (PRIMO). A copy of the latest DEFRA leaflet is included.

EXAMPLES OF EAR NOTCHING

British Saddleback breed



This system provides a continuous series of numbers from 1 to 799. A punch hole (400) must not be inserted in the right ear.

A single notch is clipped at the positions required to build each number

eg notches at 1 and 3 = 4

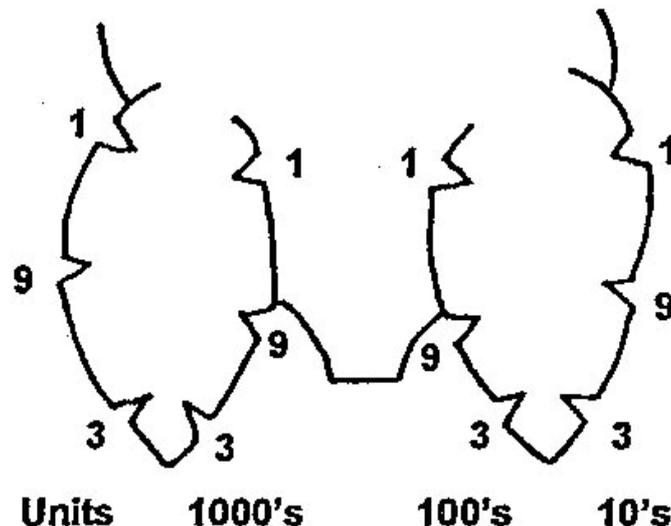
notches at 1, 3, 5, 30 and 200 = 239

notches at 2, 5, 10, 200 and 400 = 617

(Note: notches at 1 and 2 do not = 3, use notch position 3

notches at 2 and 3 do not = 5, use notch position 5)

Berkshire, Duroc, Hampshire, Large Black and Oxford Sandy & Black breeds



In order that certain numbers can be allocated, it is necessary to place two notches adjacent to each other at the same position.

eg two notches at the 1 (units) location = 2

adding notch 3 (units) to these at the appropriate location = 5

25 would require a further two adjacent notches at the 1 (10s) location

625 needs two further adjacent notches at the 3 (100s) location and so on.

Special instruments for notching pigs are available from veterinary instrument suppliers. Notches should not be cut more than 1/8th inch deep.