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EC234 Nebraska System for Tattooing Hogs for Identification after Slaughter

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Extension Circular 234

October, 1928

Nebraska System for Tattooing Hogs for Identification after Slaughter

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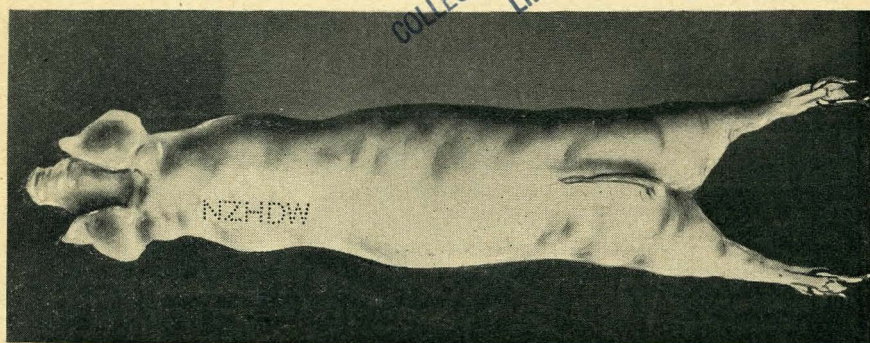


Fig. 4

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
EXTENSION SERVICE AND THE UNITED STATES DEPART-
MENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING
W. H. BROKAW, Director, Lincoln

Nebraska System for Tattooing Hogs for Identification after Slaughter

BY G. R. BOOMER AND O. O. WAGGENER

A plan to identify the individual farm upon which hogs reaching market are produced has been developed in connection with the efforts toward eradicating tuberculosis among farm animals. While primarily intended as a means of tracing back to determine sources of disease infection, the system of tattooing which is being developed has other significant possibilities. With the growing emphasis on quality products in the market, it is only fair that the producers of high quality commodities receive the premiums paid by processors and consumers. Health of farm animals is a quality factor. The producer of healthy hogs should be rewarded. Likewise, the producer of diseased hogs profits from knowledge that his animals are infected and can institute efforts to control that source of loss.

The packers have been paying premiums for hogs produced in counties which are accredited as practically free of tuberculosis infection among cattle. The prevalence of avian tuberculosis as found in slaughtered hogs originating in these counties makes it all the more necessary that a sure and definite method of tracing and locating the source of such infection should be employed. To reduce still further the disease infection which may show up at time of slaughter, a means of tracing it back to the source of infection has been developed. By means of tattoo marking, the county, township, and farm upon which each hog slaughtered is produced may be determined.

Still other possibilities than that of tracing disease are offered by developing the tattooing method of identity. It should prove a distinct aid in tracing and identifying stolen property. It would also permit reporting back to each producer how his hogs fulfilled market requirements as to carcass type, dressing per cent, and other factors. Pursued still further, connection between the killing quality and feeding methods could be determined for the information of the producer.

To aid in carrying out this plan a system of designating each 40 acres in a county by a permanent mark has been devised for the purpose of assigning codes to be used in tattooing hogs originating in accredited counties for identification purposes.

STATE LETTER

Five letters and digits are assigned to each farm. The first letter of this code indicates the state and to Nebraska has been assigned the code letter "N." All Nebraska hogs carry "N" as the first letter of their brand.

COUNTY LETTER

The second letter indicates the county. The letters have been assigned in the order of county accreditations. Seward county is illus-

trated, and since it was the twenty-sixth county passed, its code letter is "Z." All Seward county hogs have "N Z" as the first two letters of their code.

TOWNSHIP LETTER

SEWARD COUNTY			
D	C	B	A
E	F	G	H
L	K	J	I
M	N	O	P

Fig. 1

have been assigned an identifying letter. (Fig. 1.)

TOWNSHIP PLOT					
6 F	5 E	4 D	3 C	2 B	1 A
7 G	8 H	9 I	10 J	11 K	12 L
13 R	14 Q	15 P	16 O	17 N	18 M
19 S	20 T	21 U	22 V	23 W	24 X
25 4	26 3	27 2	28 1	29 Z	30 Y
31 5	32 6	33 7	34 8	35 9	36 —

Fig. 2

SECTION 1 MILE SQUARE

D	C	B	A
E	F	G	H
L	K	J	I
M	N	O	P

Fig. 3

If buildings are located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the section, the farm code figure would be "P." If the buildings are on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ the farm code figure would be "L."

If a farmer knows the legal description of his land on which the buildings are located, the tattoo code can easily be determined, and there will be no chance for duplication.

WHERE TO TATTOO THE HOG

When this brand has been established and tattooed on a hog's back

The third letter identifies the township. The lettering begins in the northeast corner progressing west, then east, etc., as illustrated on the county map. Counties are of different sizes, but all are laid out in legal townships. The northeast township is always "A," then moving west, the letters are assigned in order until the northwest township is designated. The township just south of the northwest township is given the following letter, and we then move east in the order of assignment. This order is carried on until all townships

SECTION LETTER

The fourth letter indicates the particular section within the township. Letters are assigned to the section in the same order that the sections are numbered legally. This applies to the first 26 sections. The last ten are given number digits with a bar (—) for section 36. (Fig. 2.)

FARM LETTER

The last or fifth letter of the brand is to identify the farm within the section of land. When the section is divided into 16 parts as illustrated in Fig. 3, we have an identifying letter for each 40 acre division of the section. Each 40 acre division is designated as shown in Fig. 3 by the 40 on which the buildings are located. This makes possible 16 locations on each legal section of land.

(Fig. 4) slightly to one side of the center line, and just between the shoulder blades or where the neck joins the back, we have a mark that reads easily after the hog is scalded and scraped in dressing.

MATERIAL TO USE

The substance used in making the tattoo marks is ordinary lamp black mixed with linseed oil to a rather thick, sticky paste, which is put on the marker by means of a paint brush or by having the paste in a small container, dipping the tattoo instrument into it. A sharp stroke is required to penetrate the thick skin of the hog.

* * * *

Code letters may be obtained from the county agent if there is one in the county, or from the county clerk. They will also be in a position to advise where to obtain the necessary tattoo instruments (Fig. 5). It is possible under this system to notify the producer of the hogs as to the results of the government inspection on his lot, and if infectious diseases are found, he will have definite information and may take steps to eliminate such diseases from his live stock.

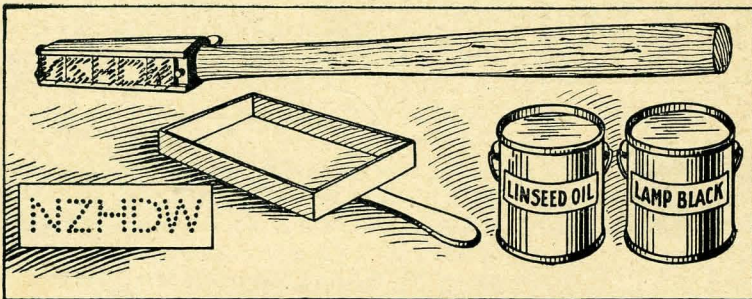


Fig. 5