

Study on Marking of Farm Animals

Definition: Marking is the process of the identification of different farm animals by special sign. Animal can also be identified by its color, sex, age or other natural or acquired marks.

Objectives of marking:

1. To identify individual animals.
2. For record keeping of animals.
3. For better management, such as breeding, feeding, treatment etc.
4. For insurance purpose.
5. It saves the caretaker from mistake.
6. It is useful in case of lost animals.

Tools required for marking:

- a. Ear tag
- b. Plier
- c. Tatto machine & Tatto number
- d. Branding rod
- e. Ear notches
- f. Leg band (Poultry)
- g. Wing band (Poultry)

Types of marking:

1. **Natural marks:** Natural marks are those marks, which can be seen after the animal is born. e.g. star, any birth spot, stripe, zebra marks, patch.
2. **Acquired marking:** Acquired marks are permanent non-congenital marks. This mark usually appears due to accident or surgical operation. e.g. yolk marks, collar marks .
3. **Artificial marking:** Artificial marks are those marks, which are applied on the animal body after birth for their identification.
 - a) Ear tagging (by ear Tag) - It is most popular incase of cattle, sheep, goat, buffalo.
 - b) Tattoo marks (by Tattoo machine) - It is used inside the ear of newborn calf.
 - c) Branding marks (by branding rod) - It is used incase of large animal over one year.
 - d) Marking by paints - It is used for temporary marking.
 - e) Neck chain- It is used for shorter duration.
 - f) Ear notching (by sharp pincers or scissors) -This method is mostly used to mark pigs.

For Poultry:

- g) Leg band (poultry)- It is used in the shank of poultry.
- h) Wing band (poultry)- It is used in the wing (web) of poultry.

Leg band and wing band are used mainly for research purpose.

