

## **Procedures For A Better Tattoo**

During the validation of steers, the County Validation Committee is required to place a tattoo in each steer validated. The following steps should be helpful in having a good legible tattoo.

- 1) Clean the inside of the ear of any dirt, oil, or wax materials before applying tattoo.
- 2) Use a paste-type ink which can be rubbed into the tattoo. Avoid using roll-on inks, as they are too thin and do not fill up the tattoo with a good legible print.
- 3) Select a spot in the center of the ear to place the tattoo, avoiding the ribs and major blood veins of the ear. Do not apply tattoos on the edges of the ear because the edges are usually haired and dark colored, making the tattoo unreadable.
- 4) Place a good amount of tattoo ink on the inside of the ear before the tattoo is printed into the ear.
- 5) Apply enough pressure so that the tattoo needles meet the pad on the opposite face of the tattoo pliers.
- 6) After the tattoo has been applied with the pliers, rub the paste-type ink in well and try to fill the tattoo holes with as much ink as possible. Some use a tooth brush to accomplish this task.
- 7) In case of excessive blood, it is necessary to use more ink and rub the ink in longer.
- 8) It is suggested that the person applying the tattoo ink wear a pair of plastic surgical gloves.