



Farmnote

Livestock identification and movement: pigs

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Stock to be identified

Identification of livestock is required by law under the *Stock (Identification and Movement) Act 1970* and assists owners by deterring theft, helping to recover stolen animals and in tracing disease. Stock which must be identified include sheep, goats, cattle, buffalo, horses, pigs, deer, camelids and ostriches.

Identifying pigs

All pig owners must obtain a registered brand. Owners will be allocated a standard livestock brand (e.g. 7BT) and a five (5) digit pig brand (e.g. 67 103) which must be applied as a body tattoo.

Pigs must be tattooed with the FIVE DIGIT pig brand BEFORE being transported.

Brand application

Stock owners must complete and sign a Brand Application Form, and forward it with payment to the Department of Agriculture and Food to obtain a Brand Certificate and an associated Property Identification Code (PIC). Pig owners must register a brand to obtain the 5 digit tattoo to be used on pigs. See Note: 139 'Registering and updating a brand.'

Method of branding

Tattoo

- # on the left shoulder if the owner has bred the animal or
- # if not the breeder, the tattoo must be applied to the right shoulder;
- # at least 20 mm long, 12 mm high with at least 5 mm between the numbers;
- # use approved carbon black paste or ink/dye and applied with a slap brand consisting of needles inserted into a block.

Age

Pigs over the age of 10 weeks must be branded no more than 7 days prior to being removed for sale or slaughter.

Exemptions from Tattooing

Stud pigs

The registered Breed Society mark can be used instead of the registered brand.

Moving tattooing equipment

Equipment for applying the tattoo must not be removed from the property without a permit from the Department of Agriculture and Food.

Offences

Under the *Stock (Identification & Movement) Act, 1970*:

- # Moving pigs over 10 weeks old from a property that have not been tattooed with the owner's pig brand.
- # Possessing stock which are not legally identified.
- # Using another person's registered tattoo.
- # Possessing another person's registered tattooing equipment.

The penalty for a breach of the legislation may be up to \$3000.

Moving pigs

Waybill

A waybill is a form which must be completed and **remain with stock being transported**. It provides proof that specific stock are being moved with the owner's consent and includes the following information:

- # Number and type of stock;
- # Registered tattoo number;
- # Original owner's name, address and signature;
- # Name of consignee and destination address;
- # The carrier's details and signature;
- # The number and description of all animals.

It is the responsibility of stock owners, not livestock carriers, to obtain waybills from the Department of Agriculture and Food or some Shire Offices and to

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ensure that all stock that leave the property have a waybill. A fee is charged for a book of waybills.

Waybills must be completed in triplicate and include signatures of the original owner, the consignee (only on the original and first copy, as the second copy is retained by the original owner) and the carrier. The original and first copy must accompany the stock.

All copies must be retained for three years:

Original Consignee

First copy Carrier

Second copy Original owner

Exemptions

Permit to move

No waybill is required if stock are being moved under the direction of a Department of Agriculture and Food inspector who has issued a 'Permit to Move'**.

Between property movements

In situations where stock are moved repeatedly between properties with the same PIC, a special permit** can be obtained from the Department of Agriculture and Food, avoiding the need for a waybill and a permit to move tattooing equipment.

Stock from other States

Stock which have been imported from outside Western Australia and are accompanied by the WA Interstate Health Certificate** do not require a waybill.

Stock moving to other States

Stock which are leaving the state and are accompanied by the required importing state's Health Certificate** do not require a waybill.

Stock in transit can be inspected for correct identification and waybills by a Department of Agriculture and Food inspector or Police Officer at any time.

**These documents must accompany the stock at all times.

See also

Farmnote 81/2005 'Livestock identification and movement: sheep and goats'

Note: 150 'Livestock identification and movement: cattle and buffalo'

Note: 135 'Livestock identification and movement: horses'

Farmnote no. 115/99 'Livestock identification and movement: deer, camelids and ostriches'

Protection of Animal and Property Health Status

Livestock and machinery, fodder and people can introduce animal and plant diseases, weed seeds and pests that can threaten your production and viability and that of the industry. It is important to develop a suitable biosecurity plan for your property to reduce the potential for these problems occurring.

Information to assist with minimising risk with your livestock is available in Farmnote 43/2002, 'Biosecurity in the livestock industries'. Broader, whole farm information is presented in Farmnote 71/2002 (reviewed 2005), 'Farm Biosecurity'.