



2015-2016 Steer Validation Program

Texas 4-H/FFA Validation Guidelines

Procedures for a Better Tattoo

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

Step 1. Clean Ear & Select Tattoo Site

Clean the inside of the ear of any dirt, oil, or wax materials before applying tattoo.

Place the tattoo in the in the lower third of the ear just below the cartilage rib, centered from outside to inside of ear. Avoid 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.



Step 2. Apply Ink

Place a generous amount of tattoo ink inside the ear, on the area that is to be tattooed.

- Although messier, use a paste-type ink which leaves a more legible print. Avoid using roll-on inks, as they are too thin and do not fill up the tattoo with a good legible print.
- The person applying the tattoo ink should wear a pair of plastic surgical gloves.

Step 3. Apply Tattoo

Place the tattoo pliers parallel with the ear ribs and press firmly. Apply enough pressure so that the tattoo needles penetrate the skin.

Step 5. Rub in Ink

Firmly rub tattoo ink into puncture holes using a toothbrush or your thumb.

- In case of excessive blood, apply more tattoo ink and continue to rub in ink until bleeding lessens or stops.

Ear Tag & Tattoo Video <https://youtu.be/XagNvtx4Zbl>