



# Flycam Pty Ltd

Specialising in Integrated Buffalo Fly Control on Cattle,  
Y-TEX Livestock Identification & Pest Control Products



FLYCAM FACT SHEET NUMBER 5

## EAR TAGGING OF CATTLE

Individual identification of animals in a herd of cattle promotes better management and assists in production due to better record keeping. There are two types of identification tags presently on the market; the two piece tag which uses a male portion or button and a one piece tag which is most commonly used for feedlot cattle in shorter term usage. There are exceptions to this categorization. The recent introduction of insecticidal ear-tag technology for Buffalo Fly control will see wholesale adoption of these ear-tags in Northern NSW and Queensland.

Some handy hints are detailed below for graziers intending to use ear-tags in the future:

- 1) If you are numbering the ear-tags yourself, it is better to print the tags the night before application to avoid smudging of the printing.
- 2) It makes tagging easier on both the handler and the animal if the animal is restrained in a head-bail.
- 3) Always keep the tags out of the sun as they will become soft and more difficult to apply.
- 4) To help avoid after-tagging ear-infections, hold the male button part of the tag in a reservoir of antiseptic solution e.g. Dettol.
- 5) Infections at the tag site are generally on cattle with hairy ears or because of pinching by the tag which keeps the site moist. An application of Cetrimide Antiseptic Spray or similar will help to alleviate this problem.
- 6) The best place in the ear to apply a tag is between the two medial rib cartilages where the animal will experience less pain and little bleeding. The cartilages also help prevent the tag from tearing out. The site should be about 10cms from the tip of the ear. This will vary among British breed and Zebu cattle.
- 7) Once the tag has been applied, it is a good idea to give it 2-3 sharp tugs to ensure it has positioned at the end of the male button shaft. This allows air to circulate around the wound. When applying Optimizer, using the Y-TEX adapter pin in an Allflex applicator, this practice is essential.

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