

P 2004

Use the letter 'P' to identify calves born in 2004 if you use international year-letter designations for animal identification.

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Permanent ID for registration

The American Angus Association Board of Directors approved two new methods of permanently identifying Angus cattle for registration at the November 2003 meeting in Louisville, Ky. Hot-branding and freeze-branding will also be acceptable identification (ID). The new rule, including requirements and restrictions, is listed below.

Section II: Registration

Rule 3 Permanent identification marks

a. Application and method of permanent identification. Each breeder shall be responsible for ensuring that the animals he or she registers bear a form of permanent identification prior to application for registration. "Permanent identification," as that phrase is used in these rules, shall refer to one of the following three alternative methods of identification: ear tattoo marks, freeze-branded marks or hot-branded marks.

b. Composition of permanent identification marks. Each breeder shall devise a plan or system of permanent identification, utilizing a series of numbers, a series of letters or a combination of both, provided, however, that permanent identification marks shall be limited to a maximum of five characters per animal. In connection with the arrangement of those five characters, breeders may use only Arabic numbers and capital letters. The use of any other characters, including joined letters, reversed letters, bars, punctuation marks and other types of symbols shall not be allowed under these rules.

c. Prohibition on use of identical permanent identification marks in a calendar year. No two animals of the same sex, registered under the name of the same first owner, shall be given identical permanent identification marks in the same calendar year.

d. Locations of permanent identification marks

1. In the event that a breeder utilizes tattoos as a permanent identification mark, such mark shall be placed in both ears of each individual animal.
2. In the event a breeder utilizes freeze-brand marks as a permanent identification mark, such mark shall be placed once on either side of each individual animal.
3. In the event that a breeder utilizes a hot-branded mark as a permanent identification mark, such mark shall be placed once on either side of each individual animal.

Many years ago, livestock producers adopted an international year-letter designation system for animal identification (ID). This system correlates a year with a particular letter of the alphabet so that all animals born in that calendar year have one consistent element in their individual IDs.

Angus breeders most commonly use this system when tattooing their newborn calves, using a combination of the letter for that particular year and a number for identification within the herd. As the American Angus Association *Breeder's Reference Guide* explains, any combination of letters or numbers can be used when tattooing a calf, as long as the tattoo does not exceed five characters applied on a straight line. (The *Breeder's Reference Guide* is published each year as an insert in the March *Angus Journal*.)

The American Angus Association Board of Directors approved freeze-branding and hot-branding as forms of permanent ID at the November 2003 meeting in Louisville, Ky. This change allows breeders multiple options in permanent ID for registration purposes. (See sidebar for tattoo, freeze-brand and hot-brand placement and requirements.)

The international year-letter designations for animal ID, as reported by the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF), are as follows:

2003 — N
2004 — P
2005 — R
2006 — S
2007 — T
2008 — U

The letters I, O, Q and V are not used in this system.

Breeders can explore several resources for tips and information about tattooing and freeze-branding.

Pages 8 through 10 of the 2003 *Breeder's Reference Guide*, published as an insert to the March 2003 *Angus Journal*, provide information on tattooing. Other articles published in the *Angus Journal* may also be helpful. See "N 2003," published in the February 2003 *Angus Journal*, or "Tattoo," published in the February 1999 issue.

Helpful freeze-branding information may be found in the articles "Who's Who?" in the September 2000 *Angus Journal* or "Make a Lasting Impression" in the August 1997 *Angus Journal*.

These and other articles pertaining to both tattooing and freeze-branding can be found by doing a back-issue search at www.angusjournal.com. Type in key words such as "freeze brand" or "tattoo."

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