

## Farm Management (Seasonal Farm Operation)

### 1-Animal Identification (Tagging)

The **reason for animal identification** is allows producers to keep records on an animal's parentage, birth date, production records, health history, and a host of other important management information.

**The method of identification should:** be easy to use, easy identification, removable and inexpensive

#### Identification Methods

**1- Ear Tagging:** is the most common method, it attached to the ear and there are a variety of shapes, sizes, types and colours. They can also have names or numbers on them.

**2- Ear notches:** Notches is cut small part of animal's ear for identification.

**3- Tattoo:** Tattoos and can be applied inside the ear, and on the thigh or abdomen. They can also be placed on the wattles of birds. it consist of letters, numbers or symbols.

**4- Brands:** is a very common method of identifying livestock and horses. Branding can be done by heat (livestock) or cold (common in horses).

**5- Electronic Identification:** There are many different forms of electronic identification. The most common include electronic ear tags, microchips.

Identification Method	Cattle	Pigs	Sheep	Goats	Deer	Horses	Birds
Ear clipping	√	√	√	√	√		
Ear notching	√	√	√	√	√		
Ear tagging	√	√	√	√	√		
Freeze branding	√					√	
Hot branding						√	
Micro-chipping	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Tattooing	√	√	√	√	√	√	

**2-Hoof trimming (Claw trimming):** is the most important farm operation that could be done regularly to keep animal's feet healthy and behave naturally. The **purpose** of hoof trimming is to be functional in the environment by dividing loading on the hooves and sole , high pressures cause different kinds of claw injuries.

**Overgrown hooves** make walking difficult and foot problems such as foot rot; Bad hooves make walking painful and competing for feed difficult. This may cause sheep and goats to not eating and stop exercising. Animals with overgrown hooves are also having joint/tendon problems.

**3- Wool and hair clipping (Shearing):** Shearing should be done once a year. Most sheep grow wool continuously and they should be shorn annually. Wool removed from a single sheep is called a fleece.

There are **two types of shearing tools** (Electric and manual). Wet sheep should not be shorn. Sheep should be sheared on a clean, dry surface to get clean fleece. Belly wool and tags should be separated from the rest of the fleece.

Goat also needs clipping its hair annually. Shorter hair helps goat cooler and allows sunlight to reach their skin, and reduce lice and other parasites.

*Samir Sartip*