



RAAA TATTOO FAQ

WHY AND WHEN TO TATTOO RED ANGUS CATTLE

WHY DO I NEED TO TATTOO MY RED ANGUS CATTLE?

It is a requirement for registration of an animal in the Red Angus Association of America.

WILL MY ANIMAL'S TATTOO BE CHECKED?

The tattoo of every animal entered for exhibition in the National Red Angus Show will be checked by Red Angus Association of America personnel at cattle check-in. Any animal whose tattoo does not match that of its registration certificate will NOT be allowed to show. That includes having the correct tattoo in both the right and left ears - exactly as the tattoo is denoted on the registration certificate. The tattoo of any animal required to have a veterinarian's health certificate will be verified.

WHEN SHOULD I TATTOO MY CATTLE?

Tattooing should be done before three months of age.

ESTABLISHING IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS

WHAT IS A HERD IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM?

Herd identification primarily consists of two parts: tattoo code letters (herd prefix - **right ear**) and individual animal identification (**left ear**). **Tattoo Code Letters** identify your herd from all other Red Angus herds with a fixed, unique set of letters and/or numbers that are tattooed into the **right ear** of all animals originating in your herd.

HOW DO I SELECT MY TATTOO CODE LETTERS (Herd Prefix - Right Ear)?

When applying for membership in the RAAA, each new membership is given an opportunity to select Tattoo Code Letters (Herd Prefix). Each sequence should contain no more than four letters/numbers and must end with a letter. Three alternative Tattoo Code Letter sequences should be listed on the membership application because your preference may already be taken by another membership. Never use Tattoo Code Letters (herd prefix) before receiving approval from the RAAA as that Tattoo Code may not be available.

HOW DO I ESTABLISH A HERD IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (Left Ear)?

Before beginning to tattoo, an effective and well-planned herd identification system must be established. This system should benefit the producer and make herd recordkeeping easier. A tattoo can reflect several different items about the animal, including: year of birth, sire code, dam code, or the sequence as to when the calf was born within a herd. For example, P001 and P002 might be used to indicate the first and second calves born in the year 2004. Or, 1P and 2P might be used to indicate the first and second calves born in the year 2004. Or, 101P could indicate the calf born to cow#101 in 2004.

INTERNATIONAL BIRTH YEAR CODE. **Note, the letters I, O, Q and V are never used in this system.

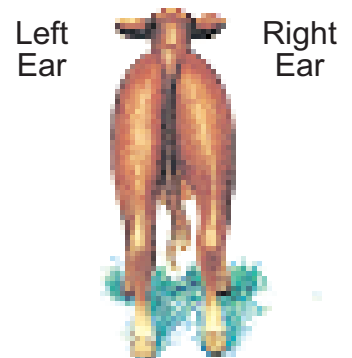
2000 - K; 2001-L; 2002-M; 2003-N; 2004-P; 2005-R; 2006-S; 2007-T; 2008-U; 2009-W

LOCATION (IN THE EAR) OF THE HERD PREFIX AND THE INDIVIDUAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

WHICH IS THE RIGHT EAR AND WHICH IS THE LEFT EAR?

When facing an animal, the ear on your right will be the animal's left ear and the ear on your left will be the animal's right ear.

Or, always face the same direction as the animal when beginning to tattoo. When facing the same direction, you and the animal have the same left and right.



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WHAT HERD PREFIX GOES IN AN ANIMAL'S RIGHT EAR?

The animal's **right ear** should be tattooed with the first owner's Tattoo Code.

Natural Calf: The herd prefix that goes in the **right ear** of a natural-born calf is that of the owner of the dam at the time of birth.

Calf purchased at side of dam: Even if you have to tattoo the calf after taking possession, the calf must still carry the herd prefix of the recorded owner of the dam (seller) on the date time she calved.

Embryo Transfer (E.T.) calf: The herd prefix of the owner who submits the registration on the calf is tattooed into the **right ear**.

Cloned calves: The herd prefix that appears in the **right ear** must be that of the first recorded owner - the owner of the clone at birth.

WHAT INDIVIDUAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION GOES IN THE LEFT EAR?

As the breeder and first recorded owner, you select the permanent, individual animal identification (numbers and/or letters) for each animal you register. Every animal should have a unique identification, not duplicated within your herd.

CAN I CHANGE MY TATTOO CODE LETTERS (herd prefix)?

To change your herd prefix, you will be required to open a new membership account for which you can select new Tattoo Code Letters. Any animals registered under the new membership can carry the new herd prefix. Animals previously registered under the old membership keep the old herd prefix. Your old membership can be inactivated or you can maintain the old membership, by paying yearly dues.

CAN A JRA MEMBER USE THE SAME TATTOO CODE AS HIS/HER PARENTS?

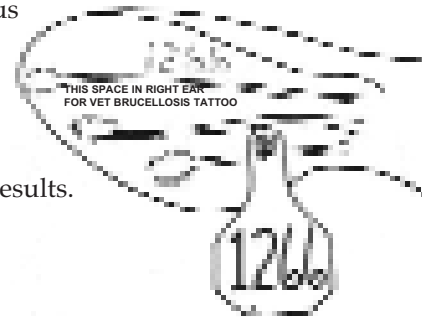
A JRA member can use the same tattoo code/herd prefix as his/her parents as long as a JRA membership is maintained. When a junior member upgrades to a regular (adult) membership, he/she **MUST** have a unique, individual herd prefix.

MY CHILD HAS ONLY TWO RED ANGUS FEMALES, DOES HE NEED HIS OWN HERD PREFIX?

If a junior intends to register Red Angus throughout a lifetime, it may be advantageous to begin that membership with a unique herd prefix.

TATTOO PROCEDURES

For best results, stamp the tattoo in the top third (horizontally) of the ear. Also remember to place the stamp in the lobe of the ear, not the rib. This will ensure best results.



TROUBLE SHOOTING/PROBLEMS

Can I correct a wrong tattoo? Contact the RAAA. A tattoo should not be changed without approval from the RAAA. In certain cases, a tattoo may need to be corrected. This change may include using a series of XXX's to cover the incorrect tattoo, re-tattooing either above or below the existing tattoo and/or correcting the registration certificate of the animal.

If I purchase an animal that is tattooed incorrectly, what should I do?

First, make sure you have the right animal. Checking with the sale management could correct this problem. Second, you could have the wrong paperwork. Again, checking with the sale management may correct this problem. Third, contact the seller. Verify the information on the animal. If a true correction is needed, the seller must submit written verification and correction to the RAAA.

Fourth, if a problem does indeed exist, contact the RAAA for assistance in correcting the tattoo and/or registration certificate. All changes **MUST** be submitted in writing by the first owner on record to the RAAA - no changes are made or approved by phone.

****In all instances, the paperwork (registration certificate, transfer...) must be corrected BEFORE correcting the actual, physical tattoo. The tattoo must be verified and approved through the RAAA before changing the tattoo in the animal's ear.**

How can I tattoo a calf with frostbitten ears? The RAAA Rules and Regulations outlines procedures to use in the case of ears that cannot be tattooed. The options include brands or lip tattoos, but either must include the individual animal identification as well as the Tattoo Code Letters (herd prefix) of the first recorded owner.