

Electronic Identification - Is It for You?

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The EID system is a great way to manage business. The first thing to do is keep a running inventory with the EID system. All cattle are tagged and must show up on computer as dead, sold, transferred, or missing. All cattle are reported at processing. Any problems will show up at this time. We use it for medical, feed, and mineral bids. We are also able to generate reports on the data collected at each different processing. At marking and branding we are able to know how many cows processed, body score, weight, frame score, and change from last processing. How many steers and heifers and their weight and frame. The percent of calves to cows. At pregnancy checking/weaning, we get the percentage of calves back to bred cows, weaning weight gain from marking and branding, and the percentage of open cows.

The EID system enables you to do studies with different medicine companies on their products. You can treat every other animal with different products and turn them out in same pasture. When you do this with thousands of cattle, it makes the

study meaningful. For example, we are doing a study with Dectomax and Ivomec on 2,000 head of cattle in the feedlot.

We have completed a study on artificial insemination with the University of Florida on time breeding 1,700 cows in three days. We were able to track the different drug treatments used to synchronize the cattle. We were also able to know what semen was used in each individual cow and what AI technician bred each cow. At sixty days, we know the pregnancy ratio per bull and per AI tech. This is all a result of using the EID tagging system.

EID will let you know more about your cattle from marking and branding to the carcass and information from the packer and how they fit in at all levels of production. It may be genetics or just management changes that need to be made. With the EID system changes will show up and what changes add value. We think the EID system is a great management tool.

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