

Ear Notching



Miss Pallas

Introduction

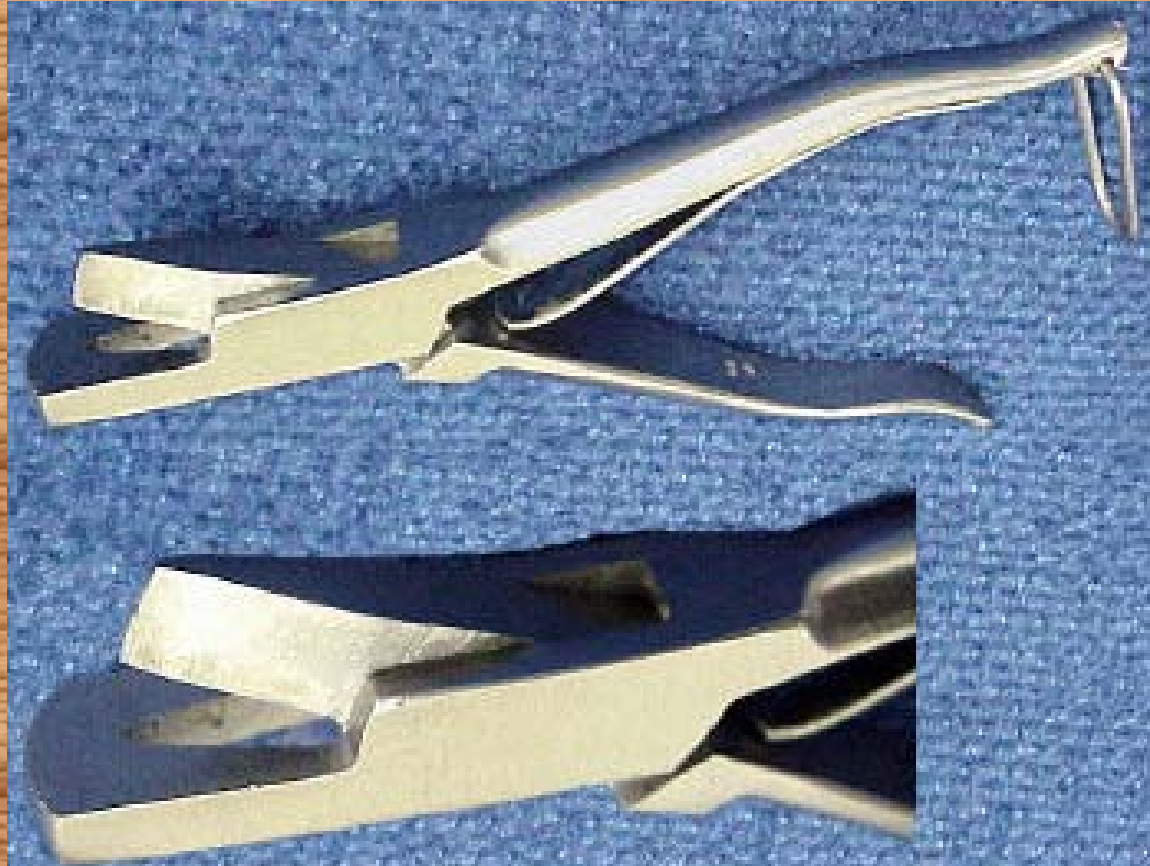
- Why do we use animal identification?
 - So we can keep current records of animal health
 - Ex: diseases, immunizations, medications, etc.
- Ear notching is the most common form of animal identification for swine (but it has also been used for sheep and cattle).

Objectives

- Explain the importance of identification of swine.
- Recognize ear notches on a poster.
- Illustrate ear notching procedure on a worksheet.

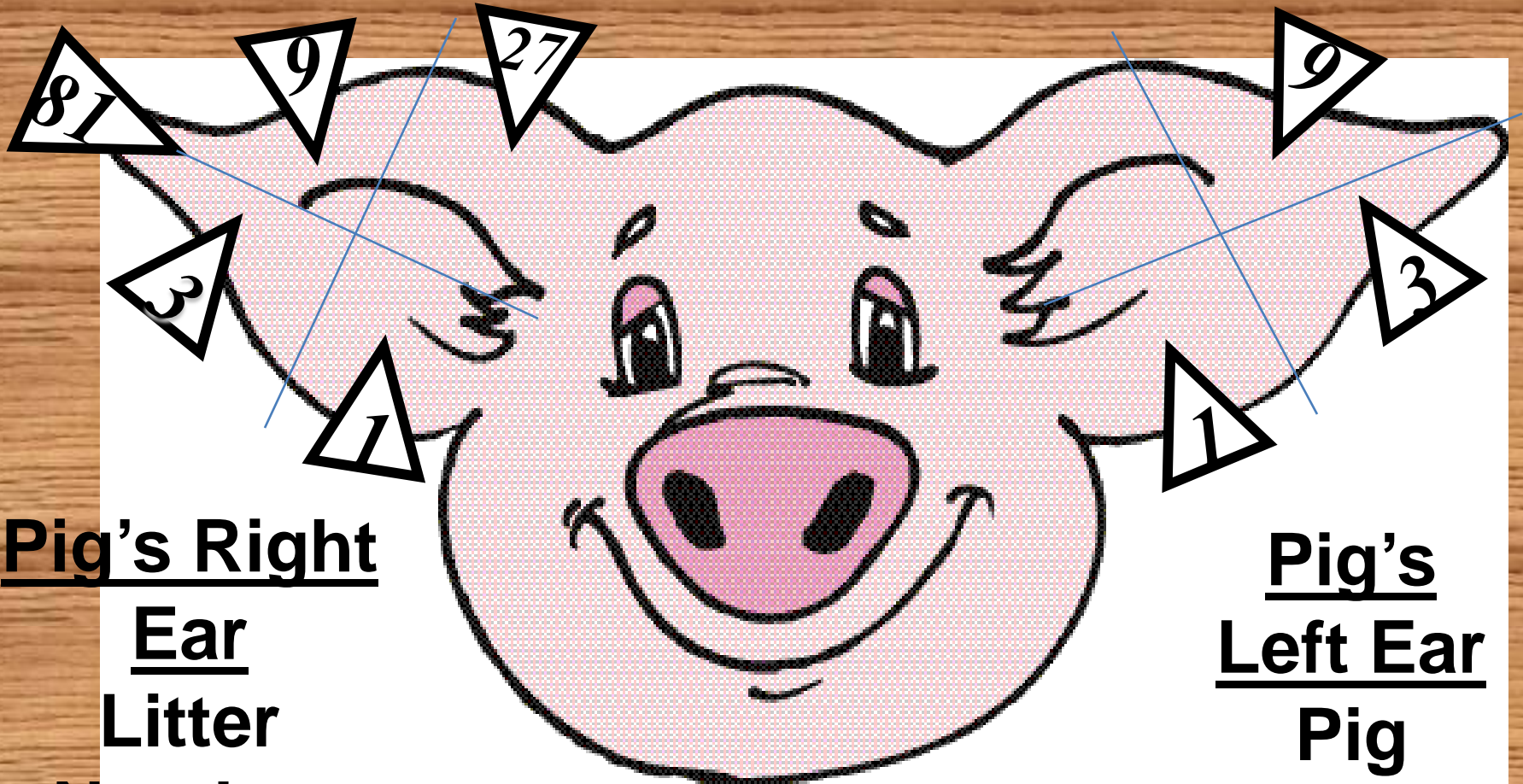
Helpful Tips:

- Be careful not to put ear notches too close together! As the ears grow, the skin may weaken and could tear or break off!
- Leave at least a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in between each notch.
- If you are notching older pigs, make sure you house them in separate pens.



Commonly done to piglets around 1 to 3 days old.
Use a sharp knife or “V” notchers.
Make sure all tools are sterilized!!!

How to read ear notches



Pig's Right
Ear
Litter
Number

Pig's
Left Ear
Pig
Number

Guidelines

- Two notches are allowed in each quadrant, except for the ear tips.
- Minimum of one notch in each ear.
- Maximum of nine notches in each ear.

Now it's your turn...

- There are two jars labeled litter number and pig number.
- Each of you will draw one number from each jar.
- Demonstrate the ear notches on the poster in front of class.

Evaluation

- When I say GO, take out a sheet of paper and answer the following questions:
- Why is it important to develop an identification system for pigs?
- At what age do we commonly ear notch pigs?
- Fill in the blank:

The pig's left ear depicts the _____
number.

The pig's right ear depicts the _____
number.

Summary

- Today we learned about ear notching swine and the importance of identification systems for livestock.

