

Iowa producer develops swine "i.d." idea

By Darryl Jahn
 DES MOINES, Ia. — Sleepless nights aren't always productive but such a night may be proven productive by W. R. Rasty of



Scott Rasty quickly identifies a pig at the same time he clips teeth and gives shots. The identification procedure takes an estimated 10 seconds. (Photos by Darryl Jahn)

Lohrville, Iowa. It was when he couldn't get to sleep one night that the Calhoun county pork producer came up with an idea for identifying pigs that may have the capability of staying with the hog through slaughter.

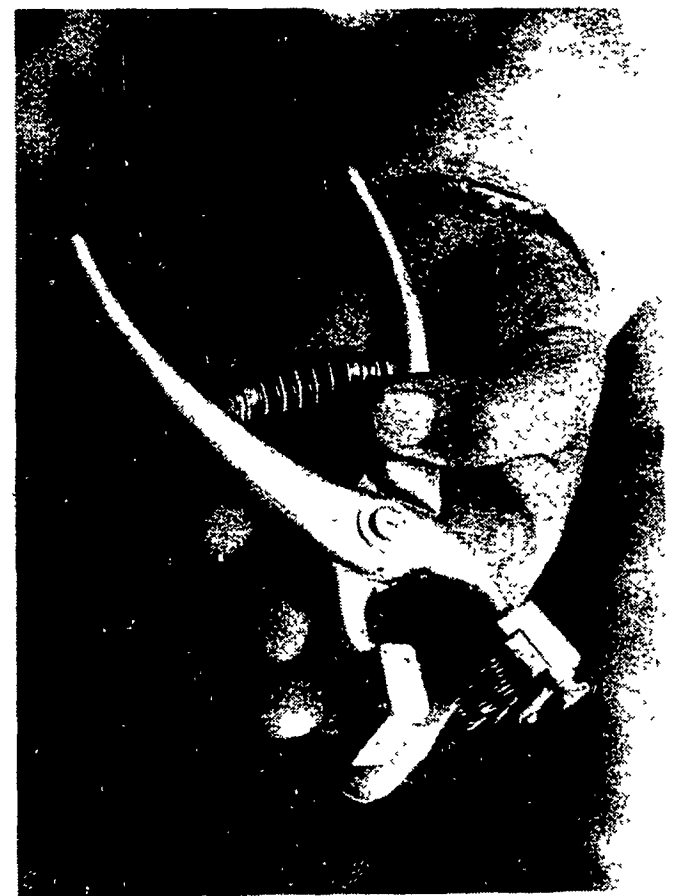
The identification is a simple tattoo placed in the ears of young pigs.

The result is similar to the slap tattoo used several years ago on hogs. That system was rendered useless for identification when slaughter procedures changed to skinning.

Rasty now has 70-pound pigs with the identifying mark which can be seen as the animal is viewed from an alley, especially in the light colored hogs. It's also identifiable in the hogs with darker skin but not as easily.

There has been no infection or tissue buildup in the several hundred hogs that have been identified.

Rasty is a promoter of crime prevention and is president of the Calhoun County Crime Coalition. He was thinking of a means of identifying his hogs to prevent theft when he came upon his idea. It was later that the possibility of using the same procedure for identification for disease control entered in. State and federal veterinarians are viewing the project with interest.

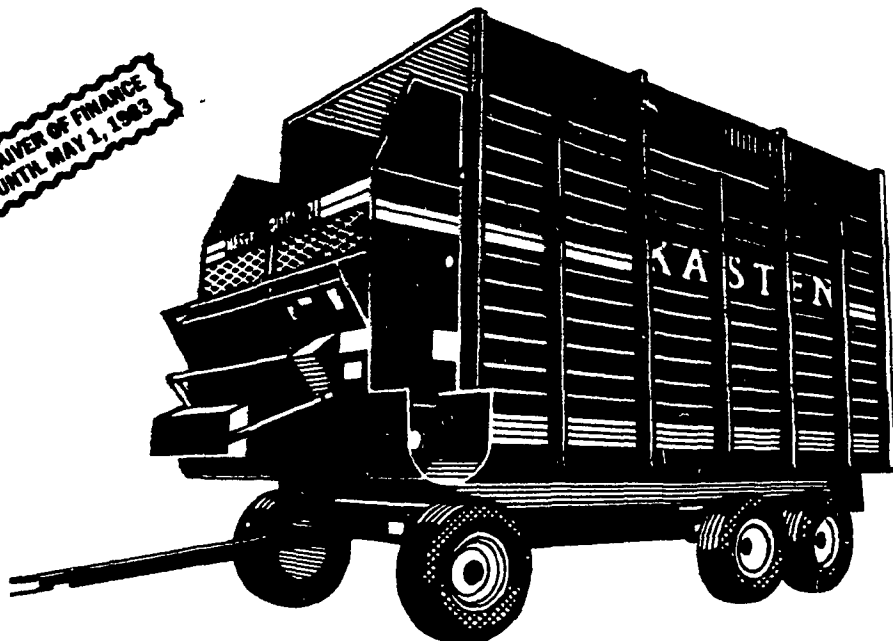


The tattoo iron is a simple pliers-like instrument. The Sharp points forming Rasty's identification can be seen to the left. A simple turn of the screw at the top releases the individual letters or numbers for change if needed.

(Turn to Page D22)

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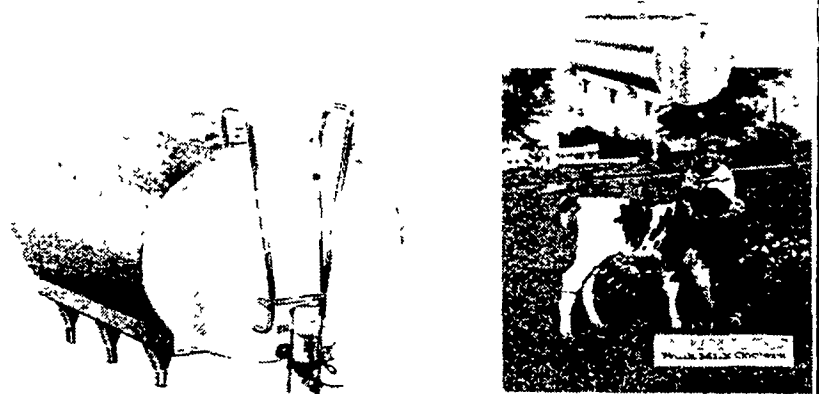


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