



PigTRACE Herdmark Identification of Pigs Going to Slaughter with Livestock Spray Paint and a Stencil

Pigs going direct to slaughter from a farm require EITHER a PigTRACE ear tag or herdmark tattoo (a 5-digit number we assign to each farm with your registration).

Effective May 1, 2019 herdmark identification using **non-toxic, livestock spray paint and a stencil** is approved for use on pigs going direct to slaughter from a farm.

- This method is not valid for shipment through assembly yard or auction. Direct from farm to slaughter only.
- Producers should confirm the preferred method of identification with their abattoir. Slap tattooing or ear tags may be preferred to the spray paint method.
- Must use the herdmark registered to the farm premises through PigTRACE. Do not use a herdmark registered to a different property or one that is counterfeit (i.e., not assigned from PigTRACE).
- Livestock spray paint is widely available from local agricultural supply stores or directly from various manufacturers (online or phone). **Note:** food safety standards stipulate that paints used on food animals **must not contain** any of the following substances:
 - Crystal violet
 - Leucomalachite green
 - Leucocrystal violet
 - Malachite green
 - Brilliant green

Make stencil with heavy cardboard or other strong material.

Minimum size of numbers: 2 inches high, ½ inch thick
(Larger number size can be used if preferred)



1. Mark pigs no sooner than 2 hours before loading them for transport to the abattoir by holding stencil within linch of the surface of the pig at its mid-section near or along the backbone.
2. Work in teams of two if possible – one to distract and hold the pig while the other applies the identifier. Deploy spray paint following the manufacturer's instructions. Spray sound may startle the pig.
3. Ensure number is legible. If it isn't legible, repeat the process in a different location on the pig's back or mid-section.

