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Farm Security: Machinery

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Farm Security: Machinery

Rural Crime Prevention Project
Cooperative Extension Service
South Dakota State University, Brookings
in cooperation with
University of South Dakota, Vermillion
Theft and burglary rates in rural America are rising faster than in cities and suburbs. That's bad, but hardly unexpected, news for South Dakota farmers.

Even the most careful farmers must leave expensive equipment unattended sometimes. We have to accept that risk. But we can make stealing a little riskier for the thief.

Mark your equipment

A marked tool or piece of machinery can be stolen as easily as an unmarked one. But the marked one will get back to you if the thief is caught.

And there’s the good chance it won’t get stolen. A thief will know where to look for your ID number. If it’s there, he might just leave things be, not wanting to be caught with equipment that is sanded or altered where law officers know ID marks are supposed to be.

Sheriff has your number

Identification numbers are issued only by the sheriff’s office. Each farmer will be given a number composed of 10 characters. The same number goes into a directory circulated to federal, state, and county law enforcement agencies.

For example, if you were John A. Doe of Volga, SD, your number could be SD0050306D. It breaks down this way: SD (South Dakota), 005 (Brookings County), 0306D (indicating you are the 306th farmer with the last name beginning with D).

The ID number tells any law enforcement agency anywhere the state and county you live in. Local officials would have your name.

Records are necessary

Identification marks are of little value if not recorded.

Keep an inventory (with your valuable papers) of marked equipment and tools, including a notation of where your markings are located. Photographs of major items showing the location of the number are helpful.

If you sell or trade

It’s not complicated. Tell the purchaser that you have marked your equipment with an ID number. He won’t sand it out; he’ll just put his mark below yours.

If you move

If you move to another county within the state, notify your sheriff and he will transfer your identification number to that county. You will not have to re-number equipment, as you will retain the same number. The records in the sheriff’s office will be changed to show your new address, and a copy will be forwarded to the sheriff of the county into which you are moving.

If you move to another state, you should obtain an identification number from the sheriff in the county of the state into which you move. You would have to re-number your items as you will not keep your previously issued number.

Before marking your equipment

1. Obtain an identification number from your sheriff.
2. Select a place where the number will stamp clearly. Pitted or painted surfaces should be sanded to insure a clear-cut imprint.
3. Make a sample imprint in wood to make sure your ID number is correct.
4. Make a sample imprint in metal to become accustomed to the surface.

When stamping

1. Use a heavy duty hammer or marking tool. (Many sheriff’s offices and Farm Bureaus have them for rent at a reasonable fee.)
2. Stamp each object in at least two different locations: (1) where this fact sheet indicates, and (2) in a hidden location.
3. Check each imprint to make sure it is legible. If the number is blurred, do not attempt to sand or grind it out. Make a second imprint directly under the blurred number.
4. After each stamp, check for broken digits in the die.
5. Keep a written record of your machinery and locations stamped. Don’t rely on memory.
6. If you have equipment that is not shown in the illustrations, contact your sheriff for marking placement. It is most important that your ID markings be placed where law enforcement officials know where to find them.
Place ID number on the rear of the differential housing. The location will vary on different brands of tractors due to design. If access will not allow the mark to be placed on the center housing, place on right axle housing, on top, or rear.

**TRACTOR**

(On four-wheel drive tractors) Place ID number on right side frame rail; 12" from front.

**4-WHEEL DRIVE**

Place ID number on frame above pivot point of axle, not on axle, but on frame of machine.

**COMBINE**

Place ID number on corn head and grain table on right rear angle iron on the main frame.

**CORN AND GRAIN HEAD**

Place ID number on right side on top of tongue; 12" to rear of hitch pin.

**ROUND BALER**

Place ID number on front of frame; 12" from right.

**SHREDDER**

Place ID number on front of frame; 12" above hitch.

**RAKE**

Place ID number on front of frame above draw bar.

**FORAGE HARVESTER**

Place ID number on planter with tongue, on top of frame, 12" from right.

**CORN PLANTER**

Place ID number on front of frame, above draw bar.

**SQUARE BALER**

Place ID number on top of main beam; 12" from front.

**PLOW**

Place ID number on top of main frame, above transport axle, on right side.

**TANDEM DISC**

Place ID number on top of main frame, 12" from right side.

**FIELD CULTIVATOR**

Place ID number on right side on top of tongue; 12" to rear of hitch pin.

**GRINDER MIXER**

Place ID number on top of tool bar adjacent to right hitch pin.

**MOUNTED CORN PLANTER**

Place ID number on all three-point hitches on frame adjacent to right side hitch pin.

**3-POINT BLADE**
Place ID number on right front of front axle.

**Figure 17**

RUNNING GEAR

I.D.#

Place ID number on end cap of cylinder.

**Figure 18**

HYDRAULIC CYLINDER

I.D.#

**DOUBLE HANDLES**

Place your ID marking on the under side of the right handle, halfway between the top and bottom of the handle.

**Figure 19**

I.D.#

**SINGLE "T" HANDLE**

Place your ID on the under side of the vertical handle, halfway between the top and bottom of the handle.

**Figure 20**

I.D.#

**"U" SHAPED HANDLE**

Place your ID on the under side of the right hand portion of the handle, approximately halfway between the top and bottom of the handle.

**Figure 21**

I.D.#

**BUCKETS**

Dragline — Put ID in vicinity of eye attachment.
Clamshell — Put ID on top of the sheave frame.
Hoe — Put ID on opposite side of serial plate, between hoe ears.

**Figure 22**

I.D.#

**PUMPS AND COMPRESSORS**

Place your ID number in vicinity of the oil filler cap or if that is not practical, on the opposite side of the unit.

**Figure 23**

I.D.#

**MANUALLY GUIDED EQUIPMENT**

Place your ID both on the shaft of the tool and on the motor of the equipment as shown.

**Figure 24**

I.D.#

**EQUIPMENT WITH COMPONENT PARTS**

On multiple pieces of equipment such as pumps, hoists, compressors, etc. place the ID on each separate part.
If unit is encased, mark cover as well.

**Figure 25**

I.D.#

**TRAILER "V" Type Trailer Hitch**

Place your ID on the inside of the frame about halfway between the hitch and the body of the trailer.

**Figure 26**

I.D.#

**TRAILERS—single tongue**

Place your ID on the under side of the single tongue, halfway between the hitch and the body of the trailer.

**Figure 27**

I.D.#

**PORTABLE LOADING/CATCH CHUTES**

Place ID on top of tongue, approximately 2 inches from frame.

**Figure 28**

I.D.#

**SADDLES (Western & English)**

Place ID under left stirrup flap.

**Figure 29**

I.D.#

**TILLER**

Place ID to rear of front frame between hitch pins.

**Figure 30**

I.D.#

**SUBSOILER**

Place ID 2 inches from top on right.

**Figure 31**

I.D.#

**MOWING MACHINE**

Place your ID directly under third arm (front).

**Figure 32**

I.D.#
ROTARY MOWER
Place your ID directly under third arm (front).

POST DRIVER
Place ID on to rear of digger on top middle of frame.

ROUND BALE HAY MOVER
Place ID directly under third arm in front.

GARDEN TRACTOR
Place ID number on right side frame rail.

VEHICLES (Tractor, Trucks, Crawlers, etc.)
Place your ID number below the driver's seat as close to the floorboards as convenient. (see fig. A & B)

If ID labels are being used the second marking should be placed under the dashboard, centered under the instrument panel. (see fig. C)

NOTE: following items should be marked with hand engraver

ELECTRIC MOTORS
Place your ID on the opposite side of the motor from the serial and or model number plate.

POWER HAND TOOLS (Drills, saws, grinders, etc.)
Place your Identification Number (ID) on the tool away from the serial-model number plate.

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