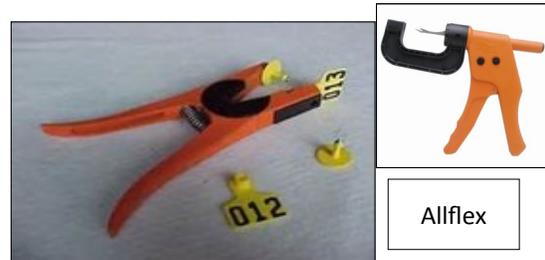


How to tag a pig!

Be ready for a fun and rowdy experience! Tagging pigs is best done fast and in one try. Especially if you don't have a way to contain the animal.

Here are a few quick tips on making this as painless as possible for both you and the pig.

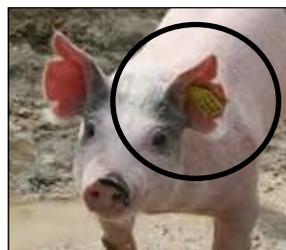
1. Make sure you have the correct tagger, i.e. check the brand of both the ear tag and the instrument you will use to put the tag in the ear. Allflex tags use an allflex tagger, Y-tex tags use a y-tex tagger, etc. There may be ways to make something else work, but if you want to start out on the right foot, this is a best practice.



2. Make sure you have a way to contain the pig; whether that is a catch, two boards and a corner, pig snare, etc. When doing this, make sure you are not harming the pig and you are using tools properly (like the pig snare).
3. If you can, see if you can distract your pig. Food is always a safe bet. Sometimes you don't necessarily need to man handle the pig. You would be surprised how much you can get away with, without having to catch the pig.
4. Be prepared to do this fast. Your best bet is on the first try. That doesn't always happen, but both you and the pig get crankier the longer it takes. Also, most likely there will be noise. That is okay. Just try not to let it be from you.
5. When tagging your pig:
 - a. Make sure your button tag is on the correct side of the tagger. If you aren't sure, when you insert the sides of the tag onto the tagger, they should not fall off. They should want to stay on the tagger without being forced.
 - b. Line up each side of the tag to make sure they will merge. If you don't have these lined up (sometimes they don't when you are chasing a pig's ear around because they were bumped/moved) they may not click and then you can really hurt the pig's ear and ruin the tag.
 - c. Make sure you are putting the tag in the correct ear. (See show rules for which ear.)
 - d. Make sure you are putting the number on the OUTSIDE of the ear. We can't read what is on the inside of most pig ears. We don't want to have to catch the pig to read its ear. See #4 if you don't believe us.



YES



NO!

- e. Make sure you put the tag in the middle of the ear. Too close to the edge of the ear and the pig will likely rip it out in a fence or another pig might eat it off. Too close to the inside of the ear and you are likely to cause more complicated issues that will require a vet visit, or just a very ugly, swollen, and uncomfortable ear.

GOOD LOCATION



BAD



- f. Try your best not to hit a major vein. If you have a chance, look at both sides of the pig's ear where you are putting the tag. Some pigs don't like you to hold their ear too long, so do what you can, and well, good luck!
- g. When you have found the perfect location, nice and centered on the pig ear, squeeze the tagger and you should squeeze until you feel no more pressure and/or you hear/feel the click. Don't hesitate! Just because you punctured the ear doesn't mean the tag stayed together. It will take some serious squeezing if you are unsure of yourself. Just make sure you have followed a. thru f. and then squeeze hard and fast!
6. There are some great YouTube videos online that you may also be interested in. Make sure you are watching the bacon kind of pig and not guinea pigs. There are a few laughs on some of these videos as well. You might consider watching these again after you tag your pig. It will help your morale.
7. Don't over think this. You can do it! It really isn't that bad, but you do need to make sure you are prepared and do this properly. If you aren't sure, have a leader, advisor, or someone else who knows how to tag present to help you.

