



Application for Herd Letters must be made through the CSA office for your exclusive use in tattooing and registering Simmental cattle.

Identification and Registration of Tattoo Letters

- Each person who wishes to register animals in the Canadian Simmental Association Herd Book must apply to the Association for, and be allotted, tattoo letters.
- Tattoo letters are a unique combination of three (3) or four (4) letters allotted to a person by the Association for that persons exclusive use in identifying tattooing and registering animals with the Association.
- All animals must be identified with an ear tattoo in order to be eligible for registration in the Herd Books as follows:
- All calves born in Canada must be identified by an ear tattoo before the animal is six (6) Months of age, and
- All imported animals must be identified by an ear tattoo using the Canadian owners tattoo letters or such other letters as may be required by the Association.
- An ear tattoo is a unique combination of tattoo letters, followed by a number of up to 4 digits to identify the animal, followed by a year letter. The first number in a tattoo cannot be a zero (0).
- No two (2) animals, regardless of sex, may have the same ear tattoo within a 22 year cycle of the year letters.
- The letters I, O, Q and V are not used.

A	1991/2013	M	2002/2024
B	1992/2014	N	2003/2025
C	1993/2015	P	2004/2026
D	1994/2016	R	2005/2027
E	1995/2017	S	2006/2028
F	1996/2018	T	2007/2029
G	1997/2019	U	2008/2030
H	1998/2020	W	2009/2031
J	1999/2021	X	2010/2032
K	2000/2022	Y	2011/2033
L	2001/2023	Z	2012/2034

Hints on Successful Tattooing

- As proper identification of animals is the basis for the purebred industry, this is the most important factor a breeder should consider. Animals can be turned away from shows, sales, and for export purposes because of improper, indistinct, or just plain erroneous tattoos. Placing a tattoo on an animal should be a simple matter, but it seems it causes many breeders problems mainly because not enough care is taken at the time the tattoo is applied. Read these tips over, inspect your cattle's tattoos when you have a moment, evaluate your present technique, and see if you can improve on your own tattooing method.
- Tools of the Trade tattoo pliers, small brush (a toothbrush works well) for rubbing paste into the tattoo letters, rag for cleaning ear, alcohol as solvent to wet rag with to remove wax, tube of paste ink. Don't store the tattoo letters in a pile at the bottom of a container point will become bent or dull. Clean, sharp, straight needles make for good tattoos.
- Applying tattoo select a spot between the ribs, well into ear and well away from the hairy edges of the ear. Press firmly and release, pressing the ear away from the pliers if necessary to avoid tearing the skin. Note if the punctures made are indistinct or ripped, leave it to heal for a week and try again. Avoid hitting a rib, as this causes excess bleeding and will result in one side of the puncture being too shallow and the other side too deep, making a poor tattoo.
- N.B. Extremely important to thoroughly clean the dirt and wax from the ear.
- Apply the past ink to the ear. There are many types of inks, but paste is recommended. Colors vary, but green works best.
- Don't put the paste directly on the tattoo needles work the paste into the punctures with the brush. If any blood appears, apply more paste and rub it in until it stops. If the tattoo is a good one, the excess ink may be removed immediately, but usually it is left on to help minimize bleeding.
- Don't place tattoos in the hairy edges. Remember when doing calves, place the tattoo well into the ear. As the calf grows, the hairy edge works into the ear.
- A good tattoo, well into the ear, away from the hairy outer edges and plainly visible is the desired result. Place the breeder letters in the top, running between the first and second ribs.
- The use of a flashlight speeds up the reading of tattoos, but well placed, distinct tattoos should require no aid to read them. Don't confuse 6s and 9s. Once you've placed the tattoos in the pliers, check on a piece of cardboard before placing in the ear.

HERD PREFIX

Registration of prefixes and naming animals

- Each person who wishes to register animals in the Herd Book must apply to the Association for, and be allotted, a herd prefix. A person's tattoo letters may be allotted as that person's herd prefix.
- Herd Prefix means a unique combination of letters and numbers allotted to a person by the Association for that person's exclusive use as the first word(s) in the name of each animal registered by that person with the Association.
- Herd Prefix must not be confused with farm name. The Canadian Simmental Association does not register farm names; this is done through your provincial government. However, we will register a Herd Prefix for your exclusive use in naming your Simmentals.

- When choosing a Herd Prefix, please keep in mind that the full name of an animal is limited to 25 combined characters and spaces. Therefore, it is always wise to choose a short prefix, made up of two letters or more with no spaces.
- For instance, a member whose farm name is GOOD TIME SIMMENTAL RANCH may wish to register the Herd Prefix GOODTIME for his/her exclusive use in naming his/her Simmentals when he/she registers them. Please note that a Herd Prefix must be registered as one word and, if made up of more, the words must be linked by a hyphen (e.g. GOOD-TIME) or by omitting the space between the words (e.g. GOODTIME). The Herd Prefix GOODTIME, having 8 letters, leaves the member 17 spaces for the rest of the name he/she gives his animal. For example: GOODTIME XTREME 214X would use up 20 of the 25 combined characters and spaces allowed.
- The registered Herd Prefix must precede any other name given to the animal in order to ensure exclusiveness. E.g. GOODTIME MR XTREME 214X is correctly using the Herd Prefix, while MR GOODTIME XTREME 214X is incorrect.
- You may also choose to register your Tattoo Letters as your Herd Prefix. For instance, if Good Time Simmental Ranchs Tattoo Letters are GTSR he/she may also register GTSR as his/her Herd Prefix and all his/her registered Simmental cattle would bear GTSR in front of their names. E.g. GTSR MR XTREME 214X.
- Tattoos and names cannot contain leading zeros. For example, GTSR 0214X is not a valid tattoo. The correct tattoo would be GTSR 214X.
- The purpose of using a Herd Prefix is to make your cattle herd identifiable and consistent. It indicates, by name, where that animal was bred and by whom it was registered.
- To ensure that you are using the correct Herd Prefix, contact the CSA office.

Cancellation and transfer of tattoo and herd prefixes

- A persons tattoo letters or herd prefix which have not been used in registered animals by that person for a period of at least ten (10) years may be cancelled by the Association. Such letters may, at the discretion of the Association, be allotted to another person.
- A person may apply to the Association in the form and manner required by the Association to transfer the tattoo letters and herd prefix allotted to that person.
- An individual's Herd Prefix may be used by a son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or spouse or a partnership of two or more of such son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or spouse who is an individual, provided written consent from the registered owner is on file at the CSA office. Any consent provided by the individual can be revoked in writing at any time.