NVAP Reference Guide: Cattle Identification

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Record all forms of identification if more than one form is present. (See figure 2 for an example of a calfhood vaccination identification, figure 3 for a depiction of cattle dentition to assess age, and table 3 for a list of bovine breeds and abbreviation codes.) In addition to listing the approximate age, gender, and breed of the animal, use one or more of the following identification methods:

- Official eartag (1.59 MB).
- Individual animal's registration tattoo accompanied by the official registration certificate issued by a recognized breed association.
- Official registration brand accompanied by official brand inspection certificates issued by a recognized brand inspection agency.
- Registration number of a breed association recognized by APHIS –VS in conjunction with an official eartag, tattoo, or brand.
- USDA-approved backtag. Backtags are used mostly in stockyards or slaughterhouses. These cannot be used as the only identification for on farm testing.

Figure 2— *Example of a Brucellosis calfhood vaccination identification.*

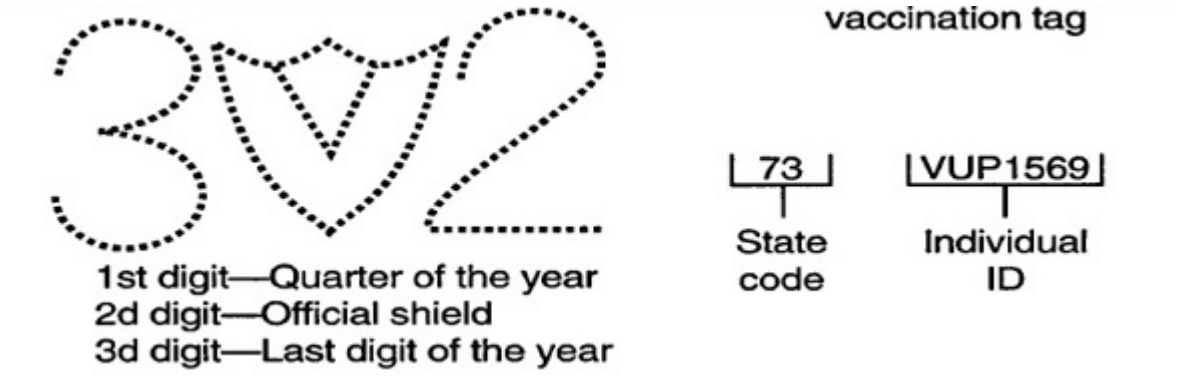
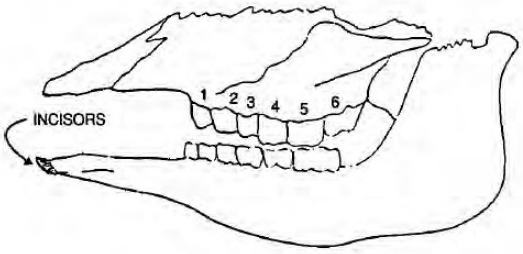


Figure 3— Cattle dental formula. (Adapted from Bovine Practitioner, No. 9-74, and "Incisor Tooth Eruption, Development and Attrition," Texas A&M University)

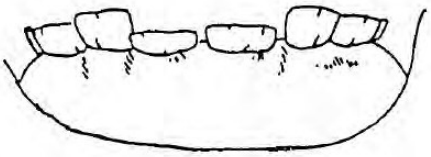


Upper and lower arcades showing premolars and molars.

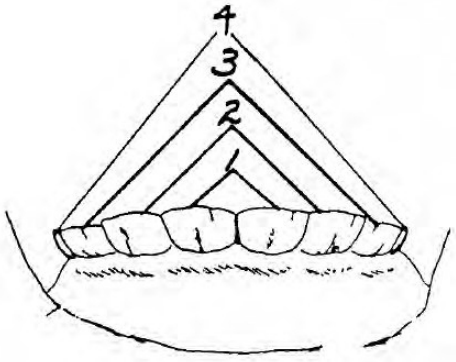
1—1st premolar; 2—2nd premolar; 3—3rd premolar; 4—1st molar; 5—2nd molar; and 6—3rd molar.



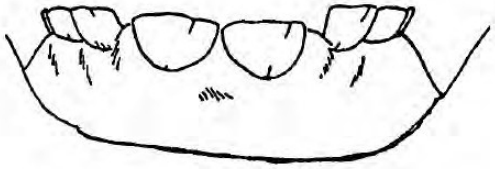
20.5 months



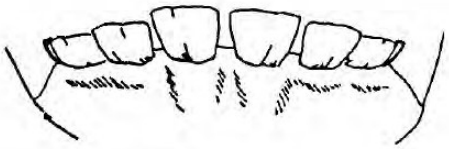
21 months



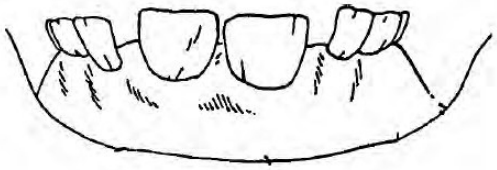
18 months



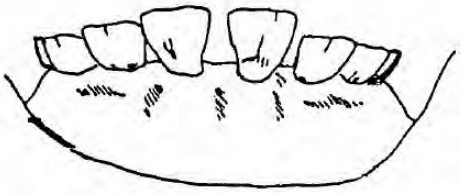
22 months



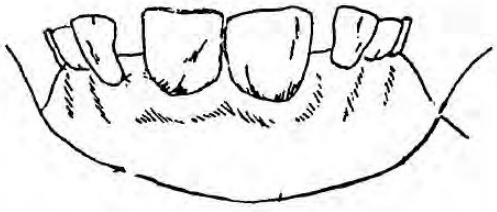
19 months



23.5 months



20 months



25 months

Figure 3—*Cattle dental formula. (Adapted from* Bovine Practitioner, No. 9–74, *and "Incisor Tooth Eruption, Development and Attrition," Texas A&M University.)*

Table 4: State, Tribe, and Territory Codes

- See linked table (365.84 KB) (365.84 KB) for assigned State numbers.

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