

## TECHNIQUE FOR OBTAINING NOSEPRINTS

Equipment and materials needed for noseprinting steers:

- 1) Paper towels.
- 2) Stamp pad. (Regular office supply 3" x 4½" felt pad is adequate.)
- 3) Black, fast drying stamp pad ink.
- 4) Head gate, squeeze chute, etc.
- 5) Noseprint cards, provided by Extension Office mailroom or index cards, 3" x 5", standard grade. (A slick-finished card or paper will produce a smeared print.)
- 6) The box used to send soil samples to the REAL lab, a ½" x 3" x 5" wood block or clip board have been used with good success.

Procedure for taking noseprint:

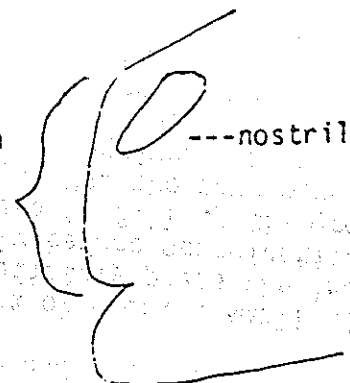
- 1) Place the animal in a head gate. A squeeze chute is great, if available.
- 2) Use a rope halter to tie the steer's head up so you can easily work on the muzzle. Stand to the right of the steer's head and with your arm, reach over and around the neck in order to restrain the head. Four people can do the job rapidly (one to hold the head, one to wipe the muzzle, one to apply the ink, one to take the print).
- 3) Use the towel to thoroughly dry the non-haired area of the muzzle.
- 4) Immediately cover the non-haired area with the black ink. A good procedure is to start the edge of the pad at the lower edge of the upper lip and then roll the pad upward toward the face. Be sure to cover the entire muzzle. Using the long dimension of the pad and rolling it up works best.
- 5) Using the box used to send soil samples, a block of wood, a small clip board or the closed ink pad, as a support, immediately press the index card against the nose and lift the print quickly before perspiration appears. (Moisture will cause the ink to run and to fill up the grooves of the nose and will result in a smeared print). Use the same procedure described for applying the ink. A light touch is required. Heavy pressing will not produce a good print. Particular care needs to be taken as you finish the print at the top of the nose so smudging does not occur.
- 6) If the print is smeared because of movement or moisture from the nose, repeat the sequence.
- 7) Submit the following information with each noseprint: member's name, complete address and telephone number, county, name of 4-H Club or FFA Chapter, breed of steer, color, tattoo, freeze brand and/or eartag number, other identifying marks, date weighed and weight, member's signature with statement "I certify that I had possession of the above steer on January 1 of this year." and signature of County Extension Agent of FFA Instructor.

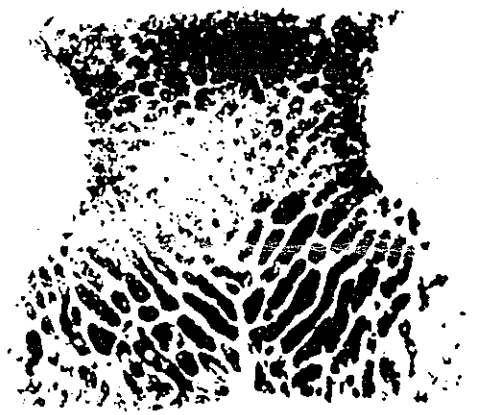
box for soil samples, wood block or clip board for support



noseprint -card or index card

Area from which print is to be lifted





12