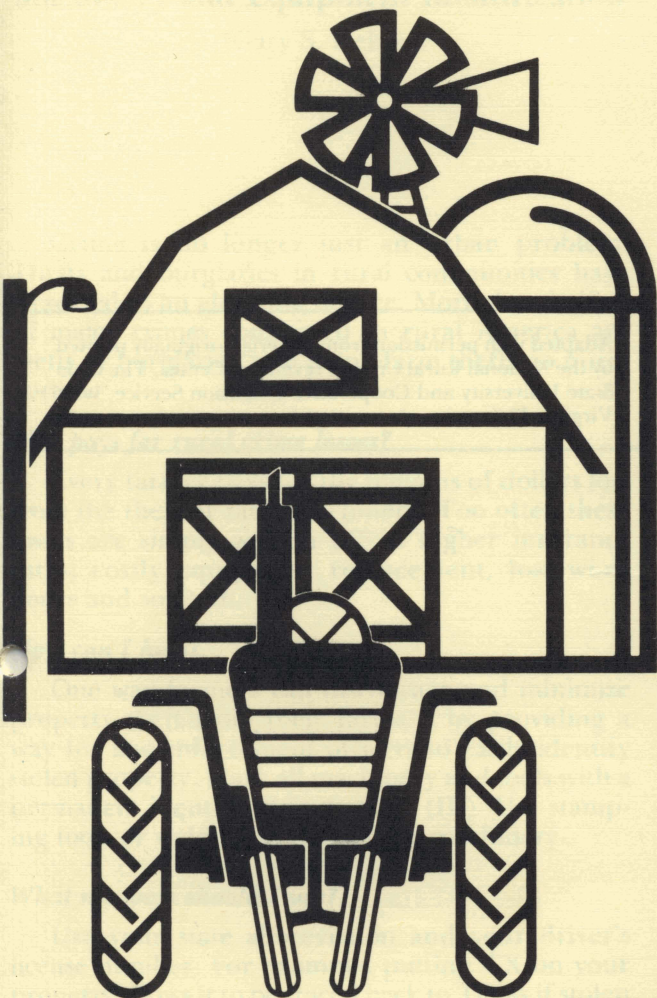


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Home and Farm Security

Machinery and Equipment Identification




The Texas A&M
University System



**Texas
Agricultural
Extension
Service**

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College Station

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Home and Farm Security Machinery and Equipment Identification

***Gary S. Nelson**

Crime is no longer just an urban problem. Thefts and burglaries in rural communities have increased to an alarming degree. More than half of all major crimes committed in rural America are thefts or burglaries, and many farm thefts go unreported.

Who pays for rural crime losses?

Every farmer pays for the millions of dollars lost from the theft of farm machinery. Too often these losses are simply written off in higher insurance rates, costly equipment replacement, lost work hours and so forth.

How can I help?

One way farmers can discourage and minimize property theft from their farms is by providing a way for law enforcement officers to easily identify stolen property. Mark all machinery and tools with a permanent identification number (ID). Use stamping tools or welding to mark farm machinery.

What numbers should I use?

Use your state abbreviation and your driver's license number. For example, putting TX on your property allows it to be traced back to Texas if stolen and then recovered in another state. Your driver's license number makes it easy for the police to return stolen property to you if it is recovered.

*Extension agricultural engineer — safety, The Texas A&M University System.

What if I sell or trade my equipment?

Some equipment may change hands many times. Notify the purchaser or whoever takes your equipment in trade that you have marked your equipment with an ID number and suggest that the new owner put a mark below yours. In this way the equipment can be traced from one owner to another.

Where should farm equipment be marked?

To make it easy for the police to locate your number if your equipment is stolen, put your ID number in the standard location as indicated in Figures 1 through 40. These standard placements help police quickly determine ownership of recovered equipment. A secondary marking should also be made in some out-of-the-way place, known only to you. Then, if your identification number is removed or destroyed, you can still claim your property, as you will have a positive means of identification.

Tips to Remember:

Before marking your equipment:

- Sand pitted or painted surfaces to insure a clear-cut imprint.
- Make a sample imprint in wood to be sure your ID number is correct.
- Make a sample imprint in metal to get accustomed to the surface.

When stamping your equipment:

- Use a heavy-duty hammer.
- Stamp each object in at least two locations — (1) in the standard location and (2) in a hidden place.
- 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.
- After each stamp, check for broken digits in the die. If a digit is broken or chipped, your ID number will be changed.
- Keep a record of your machinery and locations stamped.

Figure 1, tractor. Place ID number on the rear of the differential housing. The location will vary on different brands of tractors because of design. If access will not allow the mark to be placed on the center housing, place on right axle housing, on top

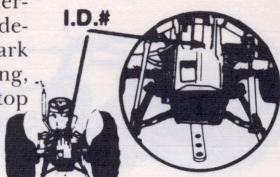


Figure 2, four-wheel drive. (On four-wheel drive tractors) place ID number on right side frame rail, 12 inches from front.

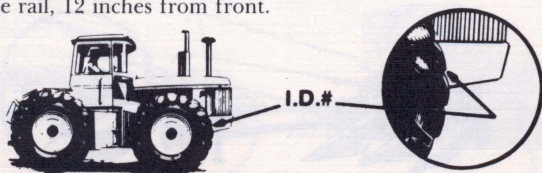


Figure 3, combine. Place ID number on frame above pivot point of axle, not on axle, but on frame of machine.

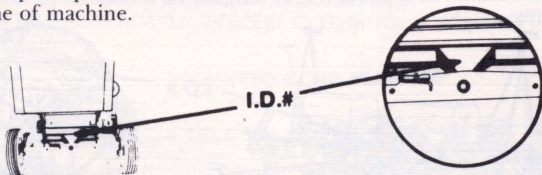


Figure 4, corn and grain head. Place ID number on corn head and grain table on right rear angle iron on the main frame.

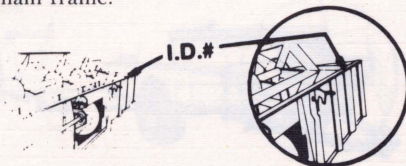


Figure 5, round baler. Place ID number on right side on top of tongue; 12 inches to rear of hitch pin.

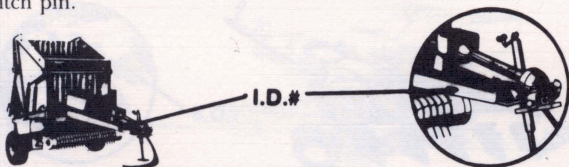


Figure 6, shredder. Place ID number on front of frame, 12 inches from right.

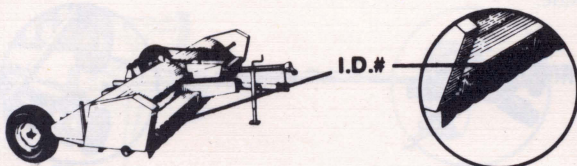


Figure 7, rake. Place ID number on front of frame; 12 inches above hitch.



Figure 8, forage harvester. Place ID number on front of frame above draw bar.

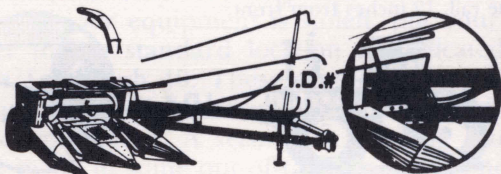


Figure 9, corn planter. Place ID number on the frame of a planter with tongue, 12 inches from right.

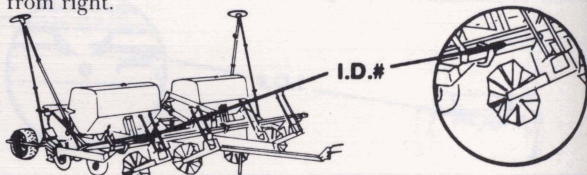


Figure 10, square baler. Place ID number on front of frame, above draw bar.

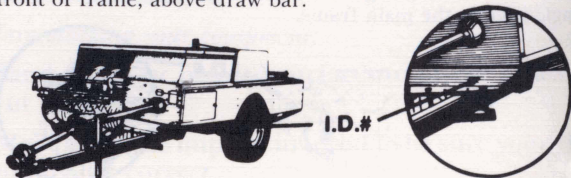


Figure 11, plow. Place ID number on top of main beam; 12 inches from front.



Figure 12, tandem disc. Place ID number on top of frame, above transport axle, on right side.

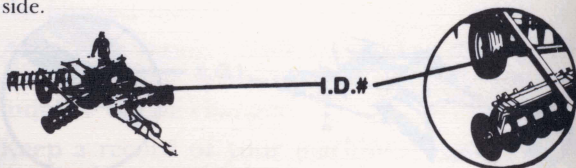


Figure 13, field cultivator. Place ID number on top of main frame, 12 inches from right side.

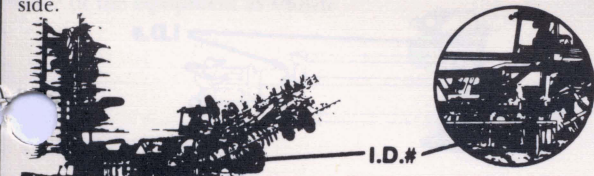


Figure 14, grinder mixer. (On all equipment with non-removable tongues; manure spreaders, grain drills auger wagon) Place ID number on right side on top of tongue, 12 inches behind hitch pin.

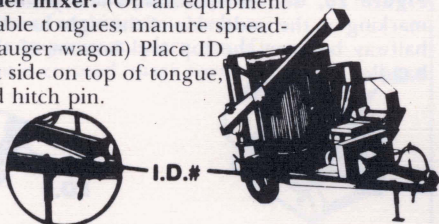


Figure 15, mounted corn planter. (On three-point equipment with tool bar) Place ID number on top of tool bar adjacent to right hitch pin.



Figure 16, three-point blade. Place ID number on all three-point hitches on frame adjacent to right side hitch pin.

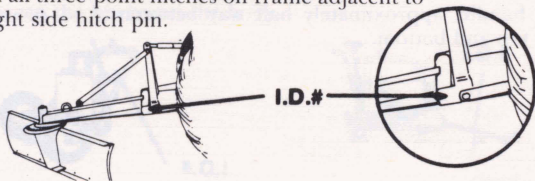


Figure 17, tobacco transplanter. Place ID on right side of pin hitch.

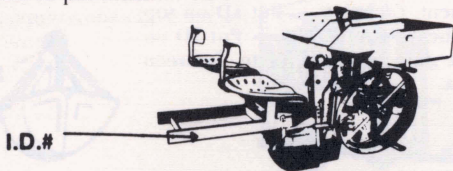


Figure 18, running gear. Place ID number on right front of front axle.

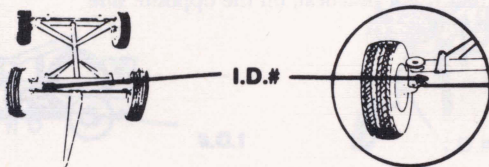


Figure 19, hydraulic cylinder. Place ID number on end cap of cylinder.

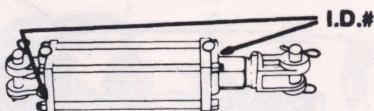


Figure 20, double handles. Place your ID marking on the underside of the right handle, halfway between the top and bottom of the handle.



Figure 21, single "T" handle. Place your ID on the underside of the vertical handle, mid-way between the top and bottom.



Figure 22, "U" shaped handle. Place your ID on the underside of the right-hand portion of the handle, approximately half way between the top and bottom.



Figure 23, 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 24, 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.

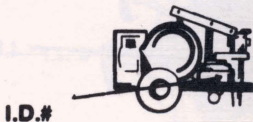
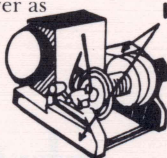


Figure 25, manually guided equipment. Place your ID on the shaft of the tool and on the motor of the equipment as shown.



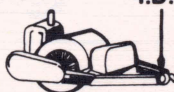
I.D.#

Figure 26, equipment with component parts. On multiple pieces of equipment such as pumps, hoists and compressors, place the ID on each part. If unit is encased, mark cover as well.



I.D.#

Figure 27, trailer "V"-type trailer hitch. Place your ID on the inside of the frame about halfway between the hitch and the body.



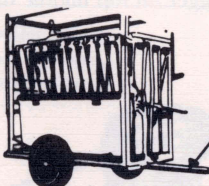
I.D.#

Figure 28, trailers — single tongue. Place your ID on the side of the single tongue, halfway between the hitch and the body.



I.D.#

Figure 29, portable loading/catch chutes. Place ID on top of tongue, approximately 2 inches from frame.



I.D.#

Figure 30, saddles (Western and English). Place ID under left stirrup flap.



I.D.#

Figure 31, tiller. Place ID to rear of front frame between hitch pins.

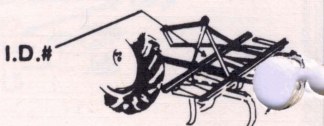


Figure 32, subsoiler. Place ID 2 inches from top on right.

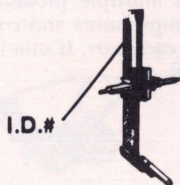


Figure 33, mowing machine. Place your ID directly under third arm (front).



Figure 34, rotary mower. Place your ID directly under third arm (front).

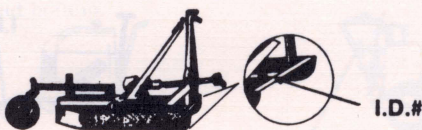


Figure 35, post driver. Place ID on rear of digger on top middle of frame.

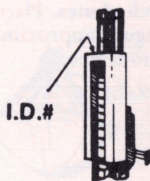


Figure 36, round bale hay mover. Place ID directly under third arm in front.

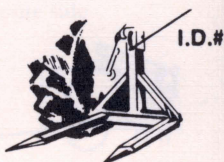


Figure 37, garden tractor. Place ID number on right side frame rail.

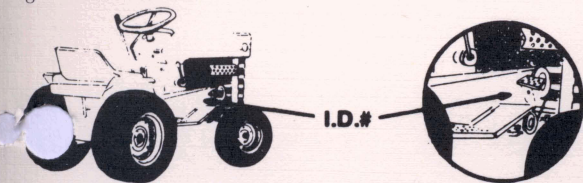
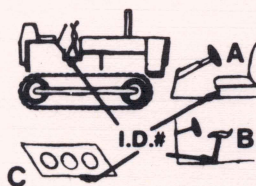


Figure 38, vehicles (tractor, trucks, crawlers). Place your ID number below the driver's seat as close to the floorboards as convenient. (See Figures A and B.) If ID labels are being used, place the second marking under the dashboard, centered under the instrument panel (See Figure C.)



The following items should be marked with a hand engraver.

Figure 39, electric motors. Place your ID on the opposite side of the motor from the serial or model number plate.

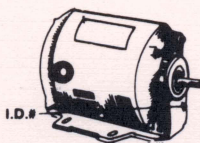


Figure 40, power hand tools (drills, saws, grinders). Place your ID number on the tool, away from the serial or model number plate.



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