



Registering as an owner of livestock

The Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013 require that all owners of livestock must be registered.

A Property Identification Code (PIC) card will be issued to you when you register and it will contain the details of your nominated properties and the registered identifiers you may need to correctly identify your animals.

Your registration of ownership allows you to own and trade in livestock in Western Australia. Livestock are considered to be sheep, cattle, buffalo, goats, pigs, horses, deer, alpacas and llamas and anyone with one or more of these animals is legally required to have a current registration.

Registration is valid for three years and renewal notices will be issued. The re-registration form should be carefully checked to ensure that all information is still current, particularly property and contact details. It should then be returned with payment to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

Guidelines for the correct age, placement and method of identifying different species of stock using your registered identifiers i.e. brand, ear tags and earmarks, are outlined in Factsheets for the various species and referenced at the end of this document.

Registering as an owner

To register as an owner of stock, you need to complete the Application to Register as an Owner of Stock form and return it with the scheduled fee to a DPIRD office or post it to DPIRD, PO Box 1231, Bunbury WA 6231.

Once your application has been processed, you will be issued with a Property Identification Code (PIC) card. The card will indicate your registered identifiers, your brand expiry date and your PIC for the properties nominated as where you will run your stock.

Your registration of ownership will have the following identifiers associated with it, even though you may not require all of them for your specific trading purposes.

1	Owner Name: Trading Name:	B & T Smith XYZ Grazing
2	Brand:	1RU
3	Pig Brand/Tattoo:	01/234
4	Earmark:	015A.113B
5	PIC:	WABC1234

- Owner name and trading name** - e.g. B & T Smith, trading as XYZ Grazing

These are the names which may be used to sell your stock. Either name may be written on waybills.

If necessary, an owner name or trading name can be changed whilst still retaining the registered identifiers, although you will incur the full registration fee. To change your owner name or trading name, the signatures of all parties to the original application are required. In the case of deceased persons, the executor to the will must sign.

- Brand** - e.g. 1RU

A brand consists of two letters and one numeral in any order e.g. 1RU / R1U / RU1. The first letter may be a lazy letter, which means it appears tipped on its side to the left

Owners can request a specific brand which will be allocated if it is available.

- Pig tattoo** - e.g. 01/234

This number is used to identify your pigs prior to movement from your property.

4. Earmark - e.g. 015A.113B

Your earmark consists of two symbols, each allocated to a position on the ear. Earmarks are shown on your PIC card as a series of numbers and letters (the coded earmark index) and pictorially, as they would appear on the ear, on the letter which accompanies your PIC card. The numbers denote the actual shape of the notch to be cut out, and the letters denote the position in which they should be placed in the animal's ear.

Earmarking requirements vary between livestock (cattle, sheep etc).

Upon receipt of your PIC card, it is worthwhile contacting neighbours to check what brand and earmarks they use. If they are similar, a request to change the newly-allocated identifiers should be lodged. This will avoid confusion in identifying stock, should they stray.

5. Property Identification Code (PIC) - e.g. WABC1234

Your PIC is linked to the owner, the registered identifiers and the property/ies on which you registered to run stock. In Western Australia, the PIC indicates location and ownership. If your primary property changes, your PIC will change also.

Your PIC consists of four letters and four numbers. In WA, the first letter will always be W to denote Western Australia. The second letter is computer generated. The last two letters denote the shire in which your primary property is located. The four numbers are your PIC's unique identifier within that shire.

Where a registration incorporates a number of properties that are managed as a single farming operation (i.e. the animals are regularly moved between the properties), approval may be granted for a single PIC to be used for all those properties. The allocation of a single PIC for a number of properties is determined by the Registrar of Stock and Apiaries and depends upon the location of the properties, the presence of a disease control zone or potential implications in the event of a disease or residue traceback.

The same PIC is only issued for properties within the same shire or an adjoining shire and no more than 100 km apart. In the case of multiple properties being run as a single farming operation, the PIC is determined using the shire of the home or primary property.

The Brands Register

The WA Brands Register is available at agric.wa.gov.au; search for 'brands register'.

This can be searched prior to applying for registration to see if a preferred brand combination is available.

The Brands Office

Phone: (08) 1300 926 547

Fax: (08) 9780 6136

Mail: DPIRD PO Box 1231, Bunbury WA 6231

One brand/one earmark for one owner name

An owner can only have one brand and one earmark registered for use on a particular property. Where a stock owner has more than one property, these can be managed as a single farming operation under the one brand. A property is any station, farm, freehold or leasehold property or any place where stock are kept or have been kept.

If you do not wish to use the same brand on all your properties, you may apply for a separate registered brand, earmark and PIC for each property.

If more than one stock owner has livestock on any given property, each stock owner must have their own PIC registered to that property e.g. agistment blocks.

Completing the owner registration form

Owner name / trading name

You must record an owner name and may record a trading name if you wish. The owner name or trading name you use to register are the names in which you will trade and purchase/sell your stock. These names will be used in any dealings with your stock.

Addresses

Please provide both a postal and residential (physical) address, not just a PO Box number. In instances of disease outbreak, it may be necessary to actually find you rather than sending mail notifications.

Signatures

Ensure that all parties who are to be signatory to the brand have signed in the signature section. If a name is written but there is no signature next to it, the brand will be registered with only the person/s who have signed. This means that in the future, the person/s who originally signed are the only one/s whose signature is required to change registration details.

Property information

The registered brand, earmarks, pig tattoo and PIC may only be used on properties to which they are registered. They cannot legally be used on any other property without a permit. The property details you provide on the registration form need to be complete, giving as much detail as possible. This will allow us to identify the property you wish to register. Where a property is owned in a company or trading name, that information must be provided. If you are leasing or agisting stock on a property, it must be clear from the information provided that this is the case.

Updating details on an existing registration

If any of your details other than your trading name change you can update these via a Notification of Change of Address and Property Details Form. For example, if you purchase new land, end a lease or change your address, it is important to advise the Brands Office.

There is no charge involved in updating your registration information however it is an offence to change your address and not notify the Brands Office.

Transferring a brand/altering an owner or trading name

The PIC card and the registered identifiers contained on it belong to the registered owner. They do not belong to the property on which you operate. If you sell your property, it is your choice whether you wish to retain the brand and other identifiers if you intend farming elsewhere, or if you wish to transfer ownership of the identifiers to the new property owners. They will get a new PIC. Brands and earmarks can be transferred to a new owner, at any time, by completing and forwarding an Application for Transfer of Identifiers.

Any change to an owner name or trading name is also considered a change of ownership. An application for transfer of identifiers, as mentioned above, will need to be completed and the transfer fee paid.

The transfer of registered identifiers requires the signatures of all parties who were signatory to the original registration. The updated registration is valid for the next three years.

Cancelling a brand registration

To cancel a registration of ownership please contact the Brands Office on 1300 926 547 for a cancellation form.

If a brand is not re-registered at the end of the three year registration period, the registration expires and the identifiers become available to other livestock owners. Once a registration expires, it can no longer be legally used by the previous owner unless they successfully apply for re-registration.

Where do I get livestock ownership forms?

All forms are available from, and can be lodged at, DPIRD offices. They are also available at agric.wa.gov.au by searching for 'livestock identification forms'.

More information available at agric.wa.gov.au

- NLIS sheep and goats
- NLIS cattle
- NLIS pigs
- Livestock identification and movement: horses
- Livestock identification and movement: deer, camelids and ostriches.

Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

© State of Western Australia 2018

Copies of this document are available in alternative formats upon request.