Hot Iron
BRANDING
for
Hog Identification

H. F. HINTZ · H. HEITMAN, JR. · R. ALBAUGH

Hot iron branding was successfully used in these tests as a permanent method of identifying hogs. Branding irons with 6-inch symbols made out of 3/16-inch rake tooth were effective markers. Application of lanolin to the brand decreased susceptibility to fly strike but did not affect legibility. Clipping the hair prior to branding was useful, but not necessary. However, even with good brands and well-defined borders of scar tissue, subsequent growth of long hair often concealed or obscured the brand so that animals had to be clipped after 1 1/2 to 2 years to insure rapid identification. Branding did not affect carcass quality when placed on the carcass where the skin was to be removed.

Hogs are usually identified by ear notches and this is a satisfactory system under some conditions. However, ears can be torn in fights or other accidents, making notching unacceptable as a permanent method of identification. A permanent identification method is desirable not only as a good farm management practice but also is essential when animals are to be used as collateral for loans. Tests at University of California’s Davis campus indicate that hot iron branding is an acceptable method of permanent identification.

Early attempts to brand hogs were not particularly successful. The brands were applied in the loin region, while the hogs were restrained by snubbing to a post with a rope tied with a slip knot around the upper jaw. The 3-inch numerals with 3/16-inch flat bases then in use, produced the brand so that animals had to be branded that was often illegible within 2-3 months after branding. When the brands were burned, they were of poor quality when placed on the carcass and animals developed sores and healed slowly. However, some of the numeral brands were successful. For example, photo 1 shows animal No. 87 two years after branding. When the area is clipped, the brand is very clear, but the long hair can conceal the brand as indicated in the picture. The area around the “7” has been clipped but the hair has not been clipped around the “8.”

Three-inch symbols with a 3/16-inch base and round faces were used in the
Insecticides and Integrated Control in Peaches

L. E. CALTAGIRONE
W. W. BARNETT

Guthion gives excellent control of both the Oriental fruit moth and the twig borer in peaches. When used at reduced rates the mortality of beneficial insects and mites is greatly reduced. There are good possibilities for using this chemical in an integrated control program for peach pests.

CURRENT PEST CONTROL practices in peach orchards are not entirely satisfactory, with infestations sometimes left too high, or other pest organisms increased. Investigations toward the development of an integrated control program for pests of peaches will hopefully result in a series of practices that will economically control the pests while keeping undesirable effects at a minimum. In any integrated control program there is a great need for chemicals that are both effective against the pest at which they are aimed, and as innocuous as possible to the non-target, beneficial organisms.

The two most important pests of peaches in California are the Oriental fruit moth (Grapholitha molesta) and the twig borer (Anarsia lineatella). These two moths are responsible for “wormy peaches.”

A series of chemicals were tested for control of both the Oriental fruit moth and the twig borer. The effect of these chemicals on the two-spotted mite and on beneficial insects was also measured. The series included Biorot BTB (a formula-

EFFECT OF DIFFERENT RATES OF GUTHION ON THE SURVIVAL OF THE PARASITIC WASP PHANEROTOMA FLAVISTACEA

The parasitic wasp Phanerotoma flavistacea was used as the test species to measure the effect of treatments on beneficial insects. Cylindrical screen cages 9 x 3 inches were sprayed, each with a different chemical. After the spray was dry, ten specimens of the parasite were placed in each cage, with a supply of pure honey as food. All specimens were of the same age. Each cage was hung in the plot that had been treated with the same chemical. The cages were examined