

GUIDELINES FOR FREEZE BRANDING BLACK FACTOR ANIMALS

From the 1st of January 2011, the following regulations will apply in relation to Black Factor Animals:

- Regulation 3.4.4, 'In relation to all calves recorded in this register, each member shall within one year of the date of birth of a calf, prior to the sale of a calf or prior to the exhibiting of a calf in individual stud classes, whichever occurs first, freeze brand the calf on the near side hindquarter with a freeze brand approved for the purposes by the MGBCS'.
- Regulation 3.4.6 , 'The freeze brand used to identify all animals in the 'Black Factor' register shall have the letters 'MG' within the outline of the map of Australia'.
- Regulation 10.1.2, 'In the case of Murray Grey Stud Classes the animal, excluding calves at foot, is recorded in the PB register or the BF register. In the case of BF animals they must be 100% Murray Grey blood'.
- Regulation 10.1.5, 'If a calf at foot on a Murray Grey female exhibited at a show, it does carry the identification number as defined in these regulations, is recorded in the PB, GR or BF registers and is silver, grey or black in colour'.
- Regulation 10.1.10, 'Being a steer and entered in a Purebred class, it must comply with the Breed Standard of Excellence and must be 75% or above Murray Grey blood, until 1st January 2012 when animals must be 87.5% to be purebred. In the case of black Murray Grey steers, they must carry the freeze brand approved for the purposes by the MGBCS on the near side hindquarter.'

What is Freeze Branding?

Cold irons are used to destroy the hair follicles on the hide so that re-growth is white.

When should a freeze brand be applied?

Apply a freeze brand as soon as an animal is big enough and in good enough condition. Quite a large flat surface is needed for the brand to sit evenly on. Freeze brands used on younger animals will grow with the animal and result in a larger brand on adult animals.

The age at which you are best to freeze brand may be influenced by the availability of adequate restraint to reduce movement and therefore reduce the risk of an illegible brand.

In addition to age, condition should be considered when deciding on freeze brand timing. Thin cattle are harder to brand and the end result is poor.

In cold climates branding in autumn and winter usually requires a longer application, but can still be very effective.

How soon can the brands be read?

The first day after branding, the skin swells producing a welt in an outline of the brand. This persists for one to three days, depending on the time the brand was applied for. In two to three weeks the brand will form a scab and peel. Generally, four to six weeks after branding, unpigmented (white) hair will replace the scab. Though this can take up to ten weeks. If you freeze brand when a new hair coat is starting, e.g. spring, the brand may appear more rapidly.

Who Can I get to do Freeze Branding?

Using a skilled operator will insure that you are less likely to make any mistakes when freeze branding.

However you can choose to do freeze branding yourself . Instructions and equipment needed are readily on the World Wide Web.

Obtaining Use of the Approved Freeze Brand

The approved freeze brand can be obtained from the MGBCS by completing the freeze brand hire form available from the 'Members Forms' section of www.murraygrey.com.au or by contacting the MGBCS.

While there will be a number of freeze brands available for use, it is suggested that breeders give themselves plenty of time to order a freeze brand. It is very unlikely that one will be available if you call up two days before you plan on branding calves. The black factor freeze brands are available on a first in first serve basis and may not be available at the time you wish to use the freeze brand.

If a breeder requires the brand to be sent by Express Post they will be invoiced for this charge.

The freeze brand is available for a period of two weeks, after which the breeder will send the brand back to the MGBCS or onto the next breeder, depending on the instructions received from the MGBCS.

The breeder will be responsible for the shipping costs to send the brand back to the MGBCS or on to the next breeder.

If a breeder is not able to return or forward on the brand within the required time frame they will be invoiced the full cost of a replacement brand.

Contract Freeze Branding Contacts:

Alison McIntosh: Crookwell NSW, Ph: 02 48320959 / Mobile: 0409 667 011

Nationwide Artificial Breeders: Colin Kendall - Haddon VIC, Mobile: 0428 537 757
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