

### **Handy Hint: Tattooing calves in the ear.**

**Step 1.** Murray Grey calves should be tattooed before they are 3 months old. It is a fallacy that calves tattooed very young will loose or grow out of their tattoo. If done correctly they never loose the tattoo unless they loose their whole ear. Clean calf's left or near-side ear with a cloth to remove any dirt and ear wax. This should expose an area to tattoo that is clean and free from hair.



**Step 2.** Apply the green "Ketchum" tattoo paste to the ear and use as much as you would toothpaste in the morning. The paste is relatively cheap so don't be a miser here, as it probably costs about 20 to 50 cents per head for a lifetime ID. See how I have applied the paste on the flat areas between a ridge high in the ear and well away from the edge.



**Step 3.** Check your numbers/letters for the calf by pressing the pliers in some cardboard or gently on your hand to see if all the numbers and letters are the right way around. When you are satisfied, apply the tattoos to the ear. You should feel and hear the pliers "crunch" through the ear surface some 3 or 4 mm. From this picture you can clearly see the numbers and letters "A32" on top and "TTD" below. Here the pins of the tattoo have clearly punched holes in the ear to show the animal's ID. If you have struck blood at this time don't panic as it is very common. Use this blood or some of the calf's saliva to rub in the remaining ink into the holes of the tattoo. If you find out later that the tattoo is wrong or incomplete, contact the Society office for a ruling so you can tattoo in the other ear.