



University of Idaho
College of Agriculture

Current Information Series No. 709

Cooperative Extension Service
Agricultural Experiment Station



Prevent Rural Crime

Identification of Farm Equipment and Machinery

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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.

Paying 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 manhours, etc.

Ways To Help

You can help to discourage and minimize theft of property from your farm by providing a way for law enforcement officers to easily identify stolen property. Mark all machinery and tools with a permanent identification number. Heavy duty marking tools should be used on farm equipment. Contact your local law enforcement agency or farm equipment dealer for further information on how to obtain these tools.

Numbers To Use

Check with your local law enforcement agency or local chapter of a farm organization for recommendations on the type of identification to use. For more information on the two primary types used for farm equipment, refer to University of Idaho Current Information Series No. 708, *Identification Inventory Sheet for Farm Equipment*.

Placing Farm Equipment Marks

To make it easy for the police to locate your number if your equipment is stolen, everyone should use a primary marking in uniform locations. The drawings on the next pages indicate placement of the primary markings. **A secondary marking should 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 because you will have a positive means of identification.

Selling or Trading Equipment

Some equipment may change hands many times. Therefore, you should notify the purchaser or whomever takes your equipment in trade that you have marked your equipment with an I.D. number. The new owner can put his mark below yours. In this way, the equipment can be traced from one owner to another.

Identification of Farm Equipment and Machinery

Before you mark your equipment, consider doing the following:

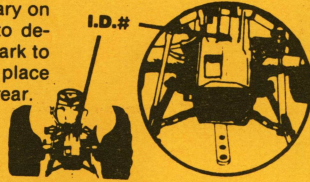
1. Sand pitted or painted surfaces to insure a clear-cut imprint.
2. Make a sample imprint in wood to make sure your I.D. number is correct.
3. Make a sample imprint in metal to get accustomed to the surface.

When stamping your equipment, follow these steps:

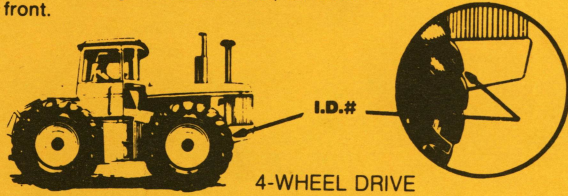
1. Use a heavy-duty hammer.
2. Stamp each object in at least two different locations — one where the catalog indicates and a second in a hidden location.
3. Check each imprint to make sure it is legible. If the number is blurred, **do not** attempt to grind it out. Make a second imprint directly under the blurred number.
4. After each stamp, check for broken digits in the die. If a digit is broken or chipped, your I.D. number will be changed.
5. Keep a record of the machinery you have stamped and the locations of the stamp marks.

TRACTOR

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

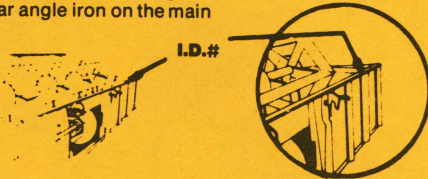


(On four-wheel drive tractors) Place ID number on right side frame rail; 12" from front.



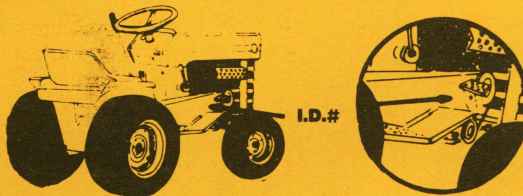
CORN and GRAIN HEAD

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

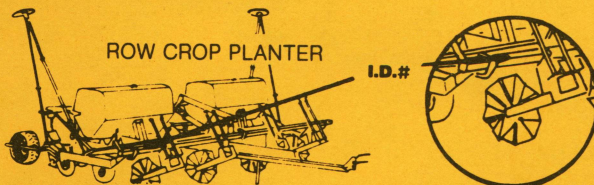


GARDEN TRACTOR

Place ID number on right side frame rail.

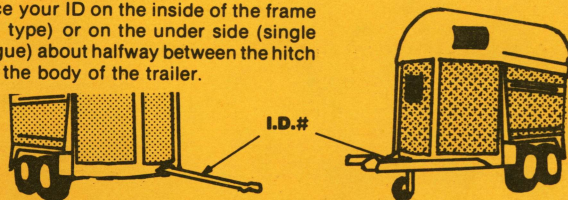


Place ID number on planter with tongue, on top of frame; 12" from right.



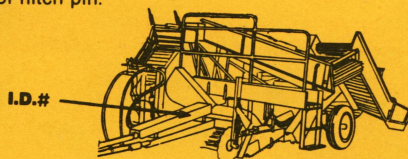
HORSE TRAILER

Place your ID on the inside of the frame ("V" type) or on the under side (single tongue) about halfway between the hitch and the body of the trailer.



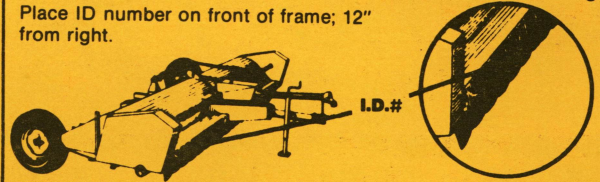
POTATO HARVESTER

Place ID number on right side on top of tongue 12" to rear of hitch pin.



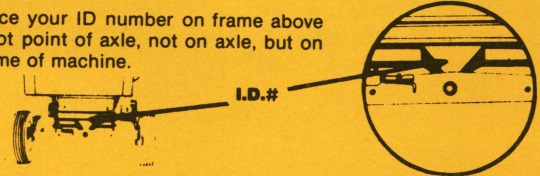
SHREDDER

Place ID number on front of frame; 12" from right.



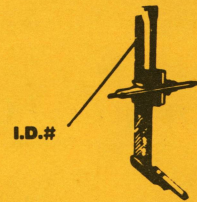
COMBINE

Place your ID number on frame above pivot point of axle, not on axle, but on frame of machine.



SUBSOILER

Place ID 2" from top on right.



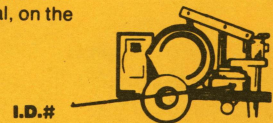
DOUBLE HANDLES

Place your ID marking on the under side of the right handle, halfway between the top and bottom of the handle.



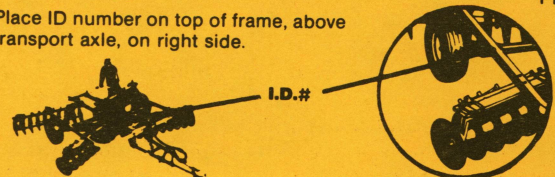
PUMPS and COMPRESSORS

Place your ID number in vicinity of the oil filler cap or if that is not practical, on the opposite side of the unit.



TANDEM DISC

Place ID number on top of frame, above transport axle, on right side.



ROUND BALE HAY MOVER

Place ID directly under third arm in front



HYDRAULIC CYLINDER

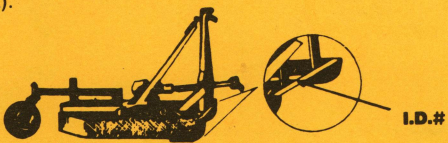
Place ID number on end cap of cylinder.



ROTARY MOWER

Place your ID directly under third arm (front).

Fig. 16

**SADDLES (Western & English)**

Place ID under left stirrup flap.

Fig. 17

**MOWING MACHINE**

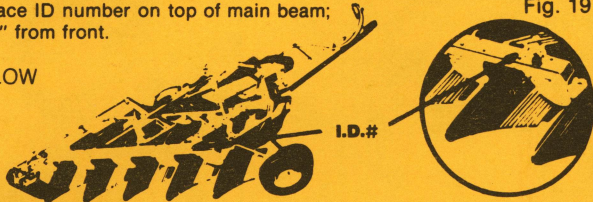
Place your ID directly under third arm (front).

Fig. 18



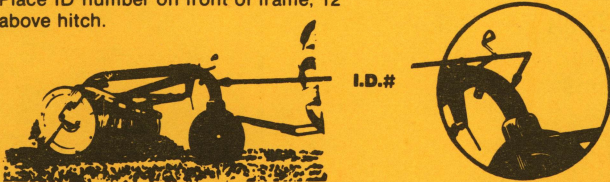
Place ID number on top of main beam; 12" from front.

Fig. 19

PLOW**RAKE**

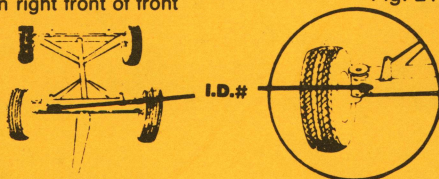
Place ID number on front of frame; 12" above hitch.

Fig. 20



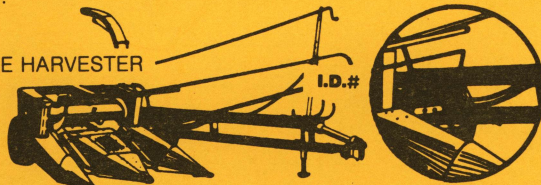
Place ID number on right front of front axle.

Fig. 21

RUNNING GEAR

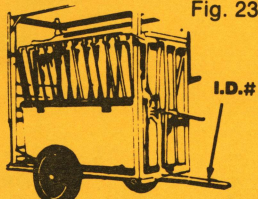
Place ID number on front of frame above draw bar.

Fig. 22

FORAGE HARVESTER**PORTABLE LOADING/CATCH CHUTES**

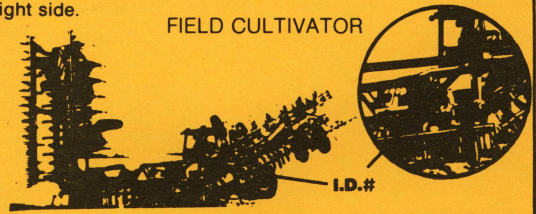
Place ID on top of tongue, approximately 2 inches from frame.

Fig. 23



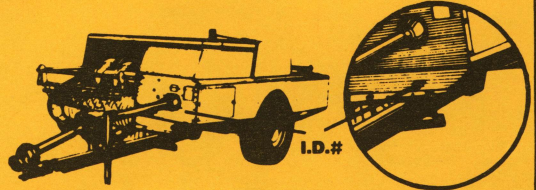
Place ID number on top of main frame, 12" from right side.

Fig. 24

FIELD CULTIVATOR**SQUARE BALER**

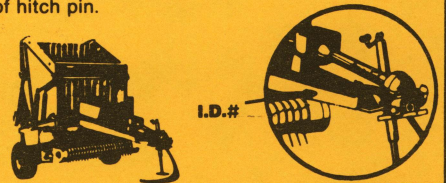
Place ID number on front of frame, above draw bar.

Fig. 25

**ROUND BALER**

Place ID number on right side on top of tongue; 12" to rear of hitch pin.

Fig. 26

**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" to rear of hitch pin.

Fig. 27

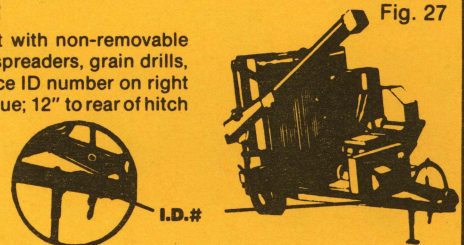
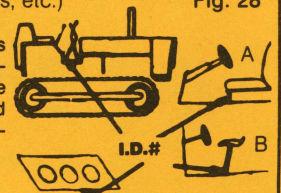
**VEHICLES (Tractors, trucks, crawlers, etc.)**

Fig. 28

Place your ID number below the drivers seat as close to the floorboards as convenient (see Fig. A & B). If ID labels are being used the second marking should be placed under the dashboard, centered under the instrument panel.



NOTE: following items should be marked with hand engraver

ELECTRIC MOTORS

Fig. 29

Place your ID on the opposite side of the motor from the serial and or model number plate.

**POWER HAND TOOLS (Drills, saws, grinders, etc.)**

Fig. 30

Place your Identification Number (ID) on the tool away from the serial-model number plate.



Acknowledgment — Material in this publication was adapted from the National Rural Crime Prevention Center, Columbus, Ohio. Deputy Sheriff Eldon Walker of the Latah County Sheriff's Department and Sgt. Dan Weaver of the Moscow Police Department, State of Idaho, verified the information in this publication.

Other College of Agriculture publications you will want to get in the "Prevent Rural Crime" series are:

- CIS 701 Crime in Rural America
- CIS 702 Identification Inventory Sheet for the Rural Home
- CIS 703 Basic Door Lock Security
- CIS 704 Alarms
- CIS 705 Securing Your Windows
- CIS 706 Planning for Vacation
- CIS 707 Farm Equipment Theft Prevention
- CIS 708 Identification Inventory Sheet for Farm Equipment
- CIS 710 Fuel Tank Security
- CIS 711 Padlocks, Hasps and Chains
- CIS 712 Community Watch and Being A Good Witness
- CIS 713 Agricultural Security: A Zone Approach

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