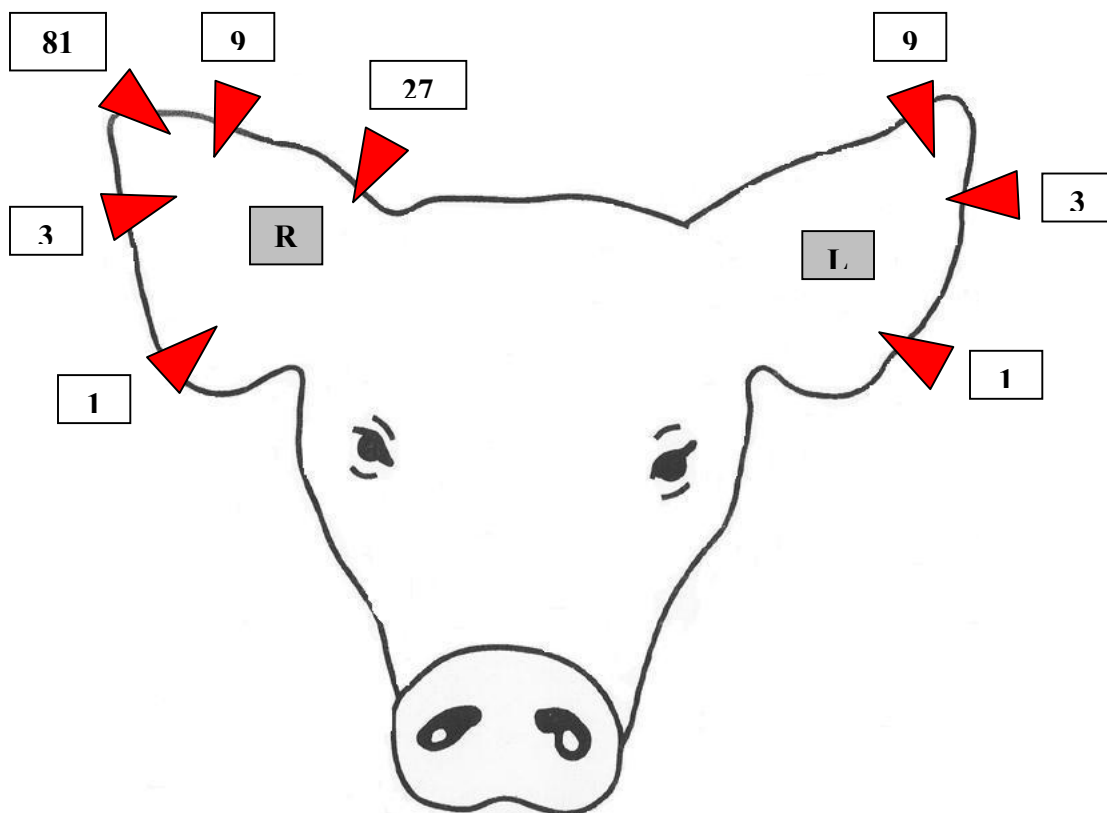


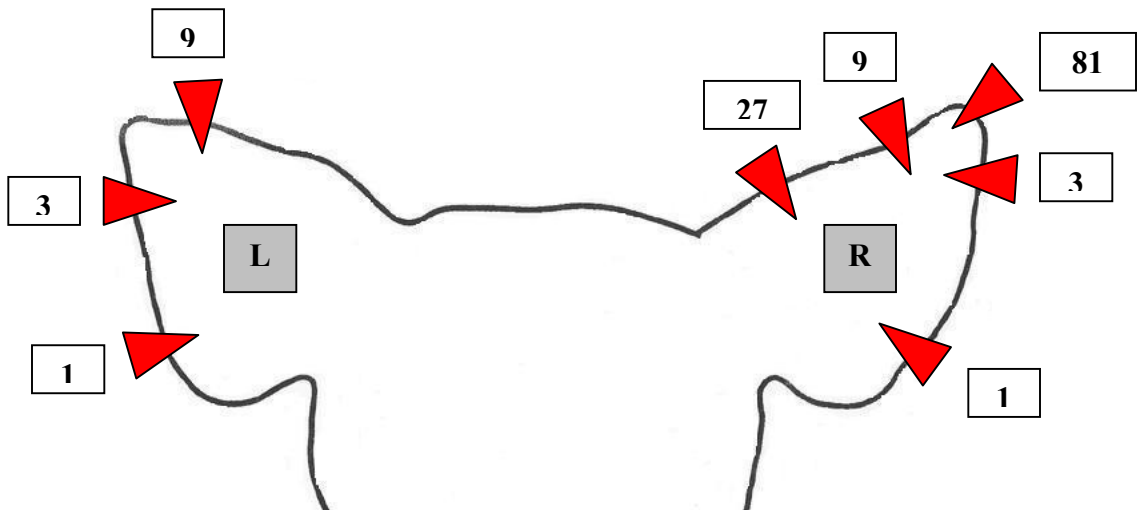
Ear Notches

Ear notching is done on new born baby pigs for the purpose of identification. The pig's right ear is used for the litter number. All pigs in the same litter should have the same ear notch in the right ear. The pig's left ear is used to show individual identification for each pig in the litter. Every pig in the litter will have a different notch number in the left ear. Ear notches are read with the litter number (right ear) first followed by the individual identification number (left ear) read second.



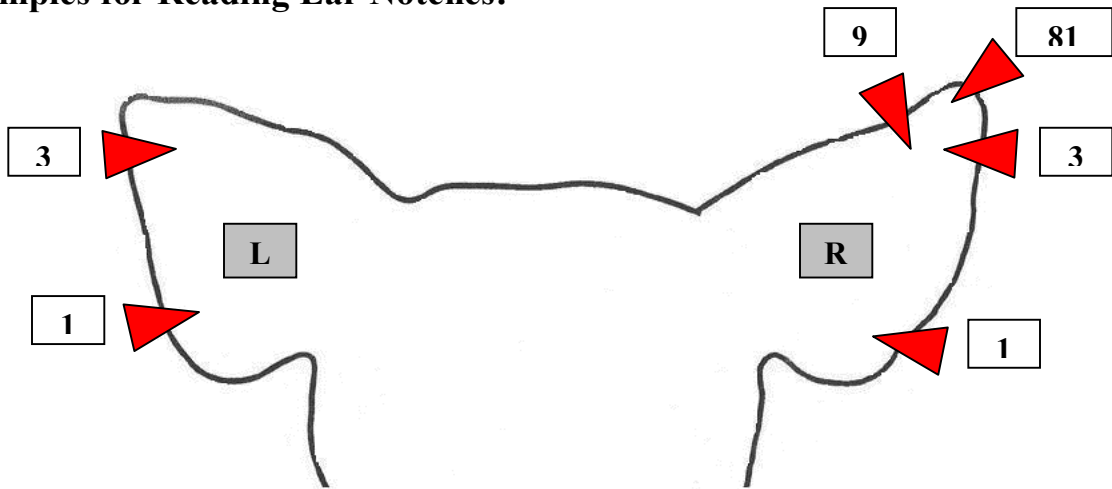
The standard ear notch system will consist of a standard set of numbers and notches located in specific areas. Standard notches in the pig's right ear are the 1 notch located on the bottom of the ear near the pig's head. Meanwhile the 3 notch is located on the side of the ear close to the tip. The 9 is located on the outer half of the top of the ear while the 27 notch is located closest to the head on the top of the ear. The largest notch number is the 81 notch which is located at the tip of the ear. Any combination of the standard notches can occur with no more than two notches of any one number. For example $3 + 3 = 6$ and you never see $3 + 3 + 3 = 9$. This does not exist and neither does $81 + 81$. There is only one tip on an ear, so there can only be one 81 notch. The right ear has a maximum number of 161 ($81 + 27 + 27 + 9 + 9 + 3 + 3 + 1 + 1 = 161$)

Standard notches on the pig's left ear are the 1 notch located on the bottom of the ear near the pig's head. Meanwhile the 3 notch is located on the side of the ear close to the tip. The 9 is located on the outer half of the top of the ear. The maximum number of the left ear is 26 ($9 + 9 + 3 + 3 + 1 + 1 = 26$). Yet, it is highly unlikely you would have 26 pigs born in a litter.



The easiest method of reading ear notches is looking down on the pig's head from behind the ears. The right ear will be on your right side while the left ear will be on your left side. This method helps avoid mixing up the pig's right and left ear.

Examples for Reading Ear Notches:



Right Ear (81 + 9 + 3 + 1 = 94)
 Left Ear (3 + 1 = 4)

94-4

