This FaST EID and label printer is slick for tracking slaughter animals from origin to the fork. I visited the Swift Packing Plant with Colorado State University staff to follow National Western Stock Show cattle through the slaughter plant. At the Swift Plant, they place a bar code on every carcass as it is processed during the kill and then remove that bar code and place another one when the carcass is weighed. The FaST EID system worked very well as I was able to scan the tags and print a label out (actually 2 labels) before the carcass got to the station where the carcass tags were put on. I was actually able to get within 2 head on the label station and still do everything that was necessary and get the labels printed in time for them to be placed on the carcasses. This was done at a chain speed of 420 head per hour. It took us less than 10 minutes to do the 60 head of stock show animals.

I then hooked up my bar code scanner to the archer unit and scanned the RFID bar codes on the labels as they went to the scale and recorded the carcass weights.

The labels have very good retention and when they went through the acid wash they turned gray but were still clearly legible. The labels stayed on the carcasses through all the different wash cycles. So it was a very good trip.

After I left Swift, I then went south of Greeley to a small plant and did the same thing. I am going back soon to assist them in tracing animals through the system. I have taken the FaST EID program and adapted it to work in both small and large plant situations and it seems to work very well. As of right now using the RFID tags, labels, and duplicate EID scans I can easily track an animal from the time it receives an RFID tag until it hits the consumer skillet.

As you can tell I try to keep finding ways to use the program and the Archer unit.