**Blocking the Nerve to the Horn**

The *cornual nerve* supplies sensation to the horn. This nerve travels from immediately behind the eye to the base of the horn. It lies underneath a small overhanging ledge of bone that is a part of the skull. This ledge is easily detected with slight finger pressure. A vein and an artery are found in association with the nerve. Administration of the anaesthetic is simple in young calves.

One nerve provides feeling to each horn. Blocking the nerve makes dehorning easier on the calf and on the person doing the job. You must block one nerve on each side of the head. Lidocaine anaesthetic is a prescription.

* Locate the injection site for the local anaesthetic by putting your thumb on the skin just beside the outside corner of the eye. You will feel a soft depression at this site. Now, move your thumb backwards toward the horn. You will feel a small groove that runs in the bone of the skull. The nerve runs along and under this groove. The injection site is halfway between the corner of the eye and the base of the horn.
* Disinfect the site with an alcohol swab.
* Use a 20- or 18-gauge, 1 to 1.5 inch needle.
* Use a 6 or 10 cc syringe.
* Use the calculated does of lidocaine for each horn. The volume depends on size of calf.
* While holding the head steady and with the needle on the syringe, push the needle through the skin at an 45ᵒangle at the injection site. Once you are through the skin,advance until u hit bone then retract the needle, pull back on the plunger to be sure the needle is not in a blood vessel; then inject the lidocaine. A bleb should be seen. Then withdraw the needle. And massage the bleb toward the horn.
* Repeat on the other side of the head. You may need to wait several minutes for it to take effect. The upper eyelid usually droops with correct injection techniques. Failure may occur if the injection went too deep at the site.