**Dehorning**:

**What**: Dehorning is the process of removal of the horn and the skin around the horn base, also known as the germinal layer, in adult cows. It removes the horn and also prevents it from re growing during the life of the animal.

**Types:**

**Chemical** - involves applying a stick or paste containing a caustic chemical, such as sodium or potassium hydroxide, to the horn bud. This method is best used on calves less than 3 weeks of age and can be done after 1 day of age.

**Hot iron method** – the smaller the animal thinner the skin therefore the shorter the distance from bone to skull thus in calves and cattle, leave for iron on for 10 to 15 seconds. In goats leave for 10 seconds. When placing a hot iron, rule is, ensure there is a copper brown color all around the horn base and surrounding skin. This ensures that the germinal area of cells is destroyed.

**Tube dehorner** - no heat involved, but has a sharp edge– used more for disbudding. Best done in calves less than 2 months of age with horns less than 1.5 inches long. The appropriate-sized tube is placed over the horn bud and pushed down to the surrounding skin. The skin is cut through by pushing down on the tube and twisting. The horn bud is then removedby pushing upward with the dehorner.

**Barnes dehorner** – When it covers he horn it must take off at least 1cm of skin (germinal layer), including around the horn base. Since this isn’t always possible, this is a limitation.

**Gigli wire** – The wire direction can be changed during the dehorning procedure.