**POTENTIAL RISKS**

**Hemorrhage**

* The risk of hemorrhage is greatly increased in older calves
* Observe calves closely for one hour following dehorning
* Wound powder may be applied to the surface of the horn bud after dehorning
* Note: avoid powder use if the sinus cavity is exposed

**Pain**

* Animals should be monitored during and after the procedure for signs of unnecessary pain, such as vocalization, reluctance to move, and failure to nurse. Such animals should be treated with a systemic analgesic such as flunixin meglumine. Severe pain warrants the attention of a veterinarian.

**Horn regrowth**

* Inadequate removal of the corium (horn-producing cells) will result in the regrowth of the horn, generally a partial growth that leads to scurs. Depending on the extent of the regrowth, the dehorning procedure may need to be repeated.

**Flystrike**

* Dehorning method that leave an open wound should NOT be used during fly season. Paste and hot dehorning are acceptable anytime of year.
* The use of a fly repellant may be warranted.

**Infection / Sinusitis**

* Animals should be monitored for signs of infection in the days following dehorning, such as redness, swelling, and discharge.
* Sinusitis is a particular risk in older calves, due to the fact that as the horn grows, the sinus grows into the center of the horn, and thus removal of the horn creates a defect in the skull that extends into the sinus, and thus an opportunity for infection.
* Avoid the use of elevated feeders immediately after the procedure to prevent entry of debris into the wound
* Minimize environment exposure, as dust and rain may increase the risk of sinusitis