POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

**Meningitis**

* Caused if the hot iron if left on the head of the animal longer than needed causing permanent damage to the brain.

**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.

**Tetanus**

* The use of tetanus antitoxin should be considered, and calves should be vaccinated for tetanus.

**Bovine papilloma virus (warts)**

* Dehorning instruments can provide a fomite for transmission of the papilloma virus, and should be disinfected between calves. This can be achieved by maintaining a bucket of disinfectant for rinsing between animals.