**CHEMICAL DEHORNING PROCEDURE**

Calves to be dehorned are placed on their side and held down or properly restrained standing up. The hair is clipped around the horn bud and out to make a 1-inch diameter hair less circle. Petroleum jelly is applied all around the outer edge of the hairless area to prevent burns from the chemical. The caustic material is applied inside the circle of petroleum. No bleeding will occur and there should be no fly problems. It is a good idea to use gloves when applying caustic material.

The calf should be kept away from its mother until the caustic material becomes dry and hard. If they are not kept separated, the calf may cause burns to the cow’s flank or udder due to contact from the caustic material. The calf should be kept out of the rain for a day or two. Rain may cause the caustic material to run down the calf’s face or into its eyes. A scab should form over the horn buds within a few days after applying the caustic. This scab should drop off in one to two weeks, leaving a hairless area.

