**Farmer Education**

In calves, studies show that elastic banding, burdizzo and open castration methods cause decreased average daily weight gain and decreased average daily food intake. Average daily weight gain is also much lower when local anaesthetics are not used for surgical castration. Castration using banding cause slower growth rates over the 4-5 weeks post castration, due to this it is suggested that surgical or burdizzo is better. It is best to castrate by 6 months old. Steers are easier and safer to handle than bulls, they also tend to have better grade meat with increased marbling, which increases their market value.

Some of the drugs used in the procedure are not FDA approved and as such their use is considered “extra-label use”. Meaning we use for something it’s not approved for, but it works. Withdrawal times for these drugs must be followed to avoid having drug residues in meat or milk.

The vet should inform client about the procedure, any possible complications and actions they the client will have to adhere to. It is especially important that clients follow post-op treatment that the veterinarian prescribes to allow for successful recovery.