Effective for calves less than 8 weeks

DISADVANTAGES

-Risk of infection and blood loss

-Painful

-May lead to setbacks in overall health and performance

-Poses risk of injury to animal and handler

Effective for calves up to 12 weeks old

For large horns

ADVANTAGES

-Procedure is quick

-Useful after the horn bud attaches to the skull

DISADVANTAGES

-Not bloodless

-Risk of infection due to open wound

-Opens the frontal sinus in older calves

-Leads to scurs if done incorrectly

-Requires control of bleeding

ADVANTAGES

-Can be used to remove horns in older cattle

DISADVANTAGES

-Not bloodless

-Risk of infection

-Leads to scurs if done incorrectly

-Requires expertise

ADVANTAGES

-Useful for young calves

DISADVANTAGES

-If done incorrectly, it can lead to scurs

-Requires expertise

ADVANTAGES

-Bloodless

-Used any time of the year

DISADVANTAGES

-Painful without anaesthesia

-Requires pain control

-Cannot use in rainy weather

ADVANTAGES

-Bloodless

-less stress than other techniques

TECHNIQUE

- Administration of sedation, local anesthetic and analgesia

- Close handles

- The horns of the dehorner is placed over the horn bud with the aim of removing a ring skin from the base of the horn.

-The gouger is pressed gently against the head. While maintaining the pressure, spread the handles apart, bringing the blades together to remove the horn bud and skin.

-Bleeding is controlled using a hot iron to cauterize the artery.

TECHNIQUE

-Administration of sedation, local anesthetic and analgesia

-Excess hair is clipped covering horn buds and removed.

-A thin layer of caustic is applied using a wooden applicator on the horn button.

-Protect the calf and cow from accidental burn by placing duct tape over the horn bud. Keep dairy calves in individual pens.

Effective for calves 2-4 months old

Effective in calf less than 2 days old

Dehorning with Chemical paste

TECHNIQUE

- Administration of sedation, local anesthetic and analgesia

- An arms length of obstetrical wire is cut and attached to wire handles

-The wire is placed on the caudal aspect of the horn

-The wire is used to saw back and forth ensuring to stay as close as possible to the scalp

- Cauterize the blood vessels with a hot iron and apply bloodstop powder

-Repeat steps for the other horn

TECHNIQUE

- Administration of sedation, local anesthetic and analgesia

-The correct size tube is selected to fit over the horn bud with 1/8 inch of skin around the base of the horn.

-The cutting edge of the tube is placed over the horn and pressured in applied. Push and twist until skin is cut through.

-Under the horn bud is cut and removed.

-An antiseptic is applied to the wound.

-Ensure to disinfect the tube between calves

TECHNIQUE

- Administration of sedation, local anesthetic and analgesia

-The dehorning iron (electric or gas) is preheated until it turns a red colour.

-The calf’s ear is held away to prevent it from being burnt

-Slight pressure is applied with the tip of the burner over the horn. The burner may be rotated once smoke is seen due to burning hair.

-The dehorner should not be left for more than 10-15 seconds to prevent damage to the calf’s brain via heat transfer.

-The process is completed when a copper coloured ring is seen around the base of the horn

-The horn button can be seen sloughing off in 4-6 weeks

Dehorning with Gouge

Dehorning with Wire

Dehorning with Tube

Dehorning with Hot Iron

METHODS OF DEHORNING