

BRAND-DEHORN-CASTRATE-VACCINATE

for

BETTER SELLING CALVES



Your calves will be worth more on the market if they are properly dehorned, castrated, branded and vaccinated.

Horned cattle in the feed lot use more trough space, prevent other cattle from feeding properly and may cause bruises that lower carcass values. Dehorned cattle look more uniform, feed better and bring a higher market price.

Castrate your calves before they are 8 months old to prevent "staggy" appearance and a lower price.

Vaccinate your calves to prevent losses from certain diseases. It pays.

Branding properly gives permanent identification and proof of ownership. Do not lose calves through mistaken identity due to poor branding job.

Proper equipment - corrals, chutes and tools - for handling cattle is also needed to do a good job.

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NDAC *Extension Service, Fargo*

NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

For extra profits dehorn cattle. Do the dehorning as soon as you can. The operation is less severe on calves and is easier for you to do. There are several ways to dehorn your calves.



From this



To this

BLOODLESS DEHORNING

1. Dehorning liquid with colodian base. Apply liquid on the horn button (A) with a brush or swab. Liquid dries and soon forms a rubber like covering that is not easily rubbed off or washed off.
2. Dehorning paste is placed on the horn "button" (A) with a small wooden paddle. Prevent the paste from contacting the skin of either the calf or the operator. Several commercial brands of the paste are on the market.
3. Caustic soda or potash - Clip the hair from around the small, undeveloped horns or buttons (B) and apply petrolatum to prevent the caustic from coming in contact with the skin. The end of the caustic to be held in the hand should be wrapped in paper or cotton and the other end moistened. The moist end of the caustic is then rubbed on the undeveloped horn. Two or three applications are necessary, the caustic being allowed to dry after each application. This will take only a few minutes. If the applications are thorough there will be no further horn growth. Protect calves treated with caustic from rain for a few days following the treatment.
4. Electric dehorner



Most electric dehorners have a cupped attachment that replaces a soldering iron tip. The horn tissue is burned by the cup placed over the horn buttons. This method is bloodless but must be done when calves are young.

SPOON DEHORNER

This tool is used on small calves to cut or gouge horn button out. Apply "EQ 335" or some similar dressing to the cut after the operation.

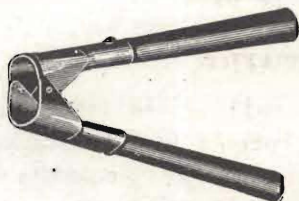


TUBE DEHORNER

You can use the tube dehorner on calves up to four months of age. Tubes come in various sizes. Use one that fits the base of horn. Then by a turning action the horn is gouged out. Use a dressing of "EQ 335" or some similar dressing. Screw-worms and maggots may infest the wound.

MECHANICAL DEHORNERS FOR CALVES

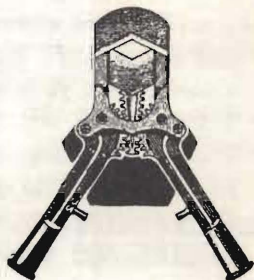
This instrument has cutting blades that will remove horns on calves from 2 months to 8 or 10 months of age. Take a ring of skin off with the horn so new skin will grow over the horn base, preventing further horn growth.



MECHANICAL DEHORNER

You can use a mechanical dehorner for dehorning more mature cattle. These are designed for speed in operation.

Make the cut at a point about 1/4 inch below the junction of the horn with the skin or hide. If this is done, the skin will grow over the horn base, preventing further horn growth.



DEHORNING SAW

When only a few cattle are to be dehorned you can use a saw.



Dehorning saws have blades with 10 points per inch, especially designed for cutting horns. As in mechanical dehorning made the cut about 1/4 inch below the junction of the horn with the skin or hide. This will allow the skin to grow over the horn base and prevent further horn growth. You can also use a fine toothed carpenters saw.

TREATMENT OF WOUND

If dehorning or castrating is done in cool weather, when there are no flies, no wound treatment is needed.

However, if flies are present there is danger of maggotestation. Protect the wounds by using .D.A. formula EQ.

The figures 335 represent the concentrations of the two main active ingredients, lindane (3 percent) and pine oil (35 percent).

It contains (in percentages by weight) lindane 3; pine oil 35; mineral oil 40-44; emulsifier 8-12; silica aerogel 8-12.

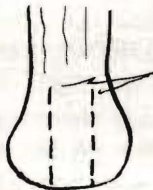
Use a small paint brush to apply "EQ 335" to the wound. One treatment may give complete protection. However check wound and paint weekly until healed. Other commercial products can also be used.

CASTRATION

Bull calves from a few weeks up to 8 months of age may be castrated without serious consequences. Old animals usually bleed more, so greater care must be used in castrating mature bulls. If a bull calf is not castrated before 8 months he may become "staggy" which is objectionable in the feeder or fat steer.



BULL CALVES
Cut off lower
1/3 of scrotum
cut across



OLDER BULLS
Make cuts on
front of scrotum
Make cuts
down, lower
2/3

In castrating, two methods may be used in making the cut. One way is to grasp the lower end of the scrotum and stretch it out tightly, then cut off the lower third. This method exposes the ends of both testicles. Remove one testicle at a time. Do this by pulling or pressing the testicle out of the scrotum and cutting it off. Allow 3 to 4 inches of the cord to remain on the testicle.

The second method is to slit each side of the scrotum. Make the incision on one side and remove the testicle from that side before making the incision on the other side. Make the incision over the center of the testicle, from about the top third to the lower end. It is essential to extend the slit well toward the lower end of the scrotum to allow for proper drainage.

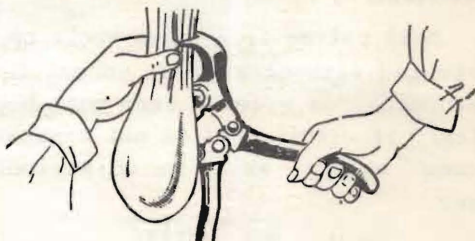
In the case of young calves, the cord may be cut squarely off, but in older bulls it is advisable to twist the cord rather tightly by holding it with the left hand and with the right hand twisting the free end before cutting it. Some cattlemen prefer to draw the cord tightly over the index finger of the left hand and cut it by scraping with the knife. Either of these last two methods of cutting the cords on older animals has a tendency to

check the flow of blood. It is necessary to perform the operation with clean instruments, under sanitary conditions. Wounds may be treated with EQ 335 or some similar product.

BLOODLESS CASTRATION

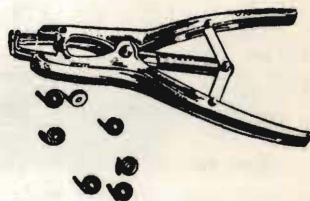
The method known as "bloodless castration" calls for a special type of pincers, pliers or clamps, which crush each cord separately an inch or two above the testicle. This method of castration is coming into more general use, especially in farm herds and on small ranches. The method is a satisfactory means of castration if done properly, but if the operation is performed too hastily the cord

may be incompletely crushed and the steer is likely to develop stagginess later on. Care should be taken to see that the cord is placed between the



jaws of the pincers before they are closed. As there is no break in the skin of the scrotum, there is no external bleeding, which is a great advantage in areas in which screwworms are troublesome. The steers so castrated usually develop larger and fuller cods by the time they are ready for market, a characteristic that is desirable in well-finished steers. Instruments for performing bloodless castration may be obtained from dealers who handle stockmen's supplies.

Another type of bloodless castration is called elastration. Possibilities of tetanus (lockjaw) occurring and the lack of cod development as steers become fat are the disadvantages of this method.



VACCINATION

Vaccination is a type of preventive medicine. There are some diseases that can be controlled by vaccination while others can not. There are effective vaccines for the prevention of: anthrax, blackleg, malignant edema, tetanus, brucellosis, hog cholera, swine erysipelas, fowl pox, Newcastle disease, laryngotracheitis, sore mouth in sheep, equine encephalomyelitis, Enterotoxemia.

Some of the bacterins used for the prevention of disease are of doubtful value.

In all cases where vaccines and bacterins are used they should be fresh. Look at the expiration date before buying. Follow the method of injecting advised by the manufacturer or by your veterinarian.

Clean the area to be injected with a strong antiseptic. Use a sterile syringe. Make the injection carefully.

Vaccination is only one of the tools of disease control. It is a common saying that "no disease has ever been vaccinated out of existence."

The strict following of the rules of sanitation and good husbandry practices must accompany vaccination. Vaccination will not replace cleanliness, proper feed and shelter.

BRANDING

The brand is usually placed on the calf before weaning time.

The hot iron method of branding is the most common. Cattle and calves are handled by casting or by chute branding. A new development is a calf branding table also called a calf cradle. This places the calf in a convenient position to be branded, vaccinated, dehorned and castrated. The calf cradle is placed at the end of a chute and calves are run in one at a time.

CHUTES AND CORRALS

Facilities for handling livestock are important in saving labor as well as getting certain jobs done. Ask your county agent for plans, bulletins and blue prints.

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