CHEMICAL DEHORNING

General:

- Chemical dehorning is the use of caustic chemicals, such as sodium or potassium hydroxide to burn horn buttons. Buttons are under-developed horns prior to penetrating the skin.
- It is done 2-3 weeks of age.
- This method is best used with small, supervised herds.

Procedure/ Safety and Precautions:

- Wear gloves.
- Wear eye protection.
- Trim hair around the horn bud and out to make a one inch hairless diameter.
- Apply petroleum jelly to the outside edge of the hairless circle (this prevents hair from burning).
- Apply chemical paste or stick to the button in the inner circle.

*Figure 2. Using caustic chemicals to dehorn calves*