

HOT IRON DEHORNING

General:

- The Hot Iron Dehorners work by burning the skin at the base of the horn where horn growth occurs.
- Works best in small calves less than 2 months of age and where the horn is less than 1 inch.

Procedure:

- Clip the hair around the base of the horn, to facilitate easier use of the dehorner.
- Warm the dehorner to the appropriate temperature and restrain the calf.
- Place the hot iron over the horn and hold it in place with firm pressure.
- Twist the iron evenly to distribute the heat
- After 20 seconds remove the iron and look at the skin for a copper colour indicating the skin has been heated enough to prevent horn growth. A white ring of skin should be seen inside the copper next to the horn. If the proper colour change does not occur, reapply the iron for 10 seconds and check the skin colour again.
- The horn should fall off within 4-6 weeks.

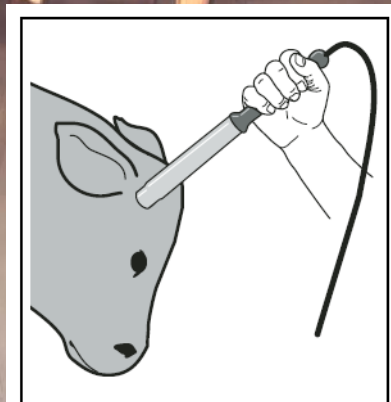


Figure 4. Using a hot iron dehorner