Another option: Short Scrotum Castration

Sheep are commonly also castrated by application of tight rubber rings to the neck of the scrotum, above the testes. Structures below the ring have their blood supply interrupted, die and then drop off after a period of time.

Another option is the “short scrotum” method in which the testes are pushed up against the body wall, and the ring applied below the testes. The scrotum dies and drops off, and the testes survive. Using this method results in far less pain for the lamb as the ring is only cutting off the blood supply to the skin of the scrotum, rather than the more complex and richly enervated testes. The testes continue to produce androgenic hormones (testosterone), but not spermatozoa. These lambs therefore grow faster under the influence of these hormones and continue to behave as males, although they are infertile.

Advantage: When this method is used calves will grow into sterile bulls with better growth and feed conversion rates than steers.

Disadvantage:

Aggressive behavior still persists