

Colorado Modification for Complete Bovine Fetotomy

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At the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, an effective technique has been developed for complete bovine fetotomy.¹ With many cows in dystocia, not all of the cuts involved in the Utrecht fetotomy are necessary. In addition, the placement of the wire over previously cut surfaces is difficult. Thus, modifications of the Utrecht method of fetotomy were made in an effort to reduce fetal size with fewer cuts and to improve the ease of wire placement. In addition, delivery is usually easier if a means is created for gas to escape from the cavities of the emphysematous fetus.

A detailed description is available in "A modified method for complete bovine fetotomy," *J. Am. Vet. Med. Assoc.* 1984; 185:524-526. In the cranial presentation, decapitation is the first step (Plate 1-1). Then an oblique indirect cut is made through the neck and thorax (Plate 1-2). This allows

complete thoracic and abdominal evisceration. The last cut is a direct oblique section of the fetal pelvis (Plate 1-3) or if necessary, deep detruncation followed by bisection of the pelvis (Plate 1-4,5). In caudal presentation, first remove a hindlimb (Plate 2-6). Detruncation at the level of the thorax is the next step (Plate 2-7). The final procedure is a direct oblique cut for removal of one forelimb and part of the remaining thorax (Plate 2-8).

References

1. Biershwal, C.J., deBois, C.H.W. 1972. The technique of fetotomy in large animal. Bonner Springs, Kan, VM Publishing Co. Inc. 2. Figures reproduced from the report by Mortimer et al. "A modified method for complete bovine fetotomy," *J. Am. Vet. Med. Assoc.* 1984; 185: 524-526, with permission of the publisher.

Plate 1

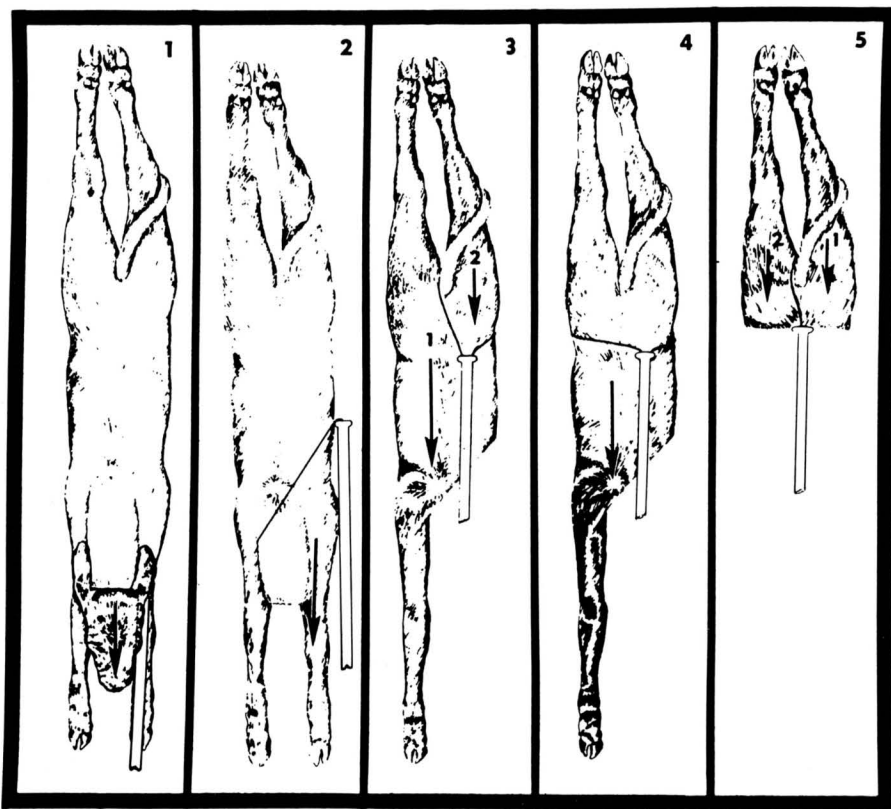


Plate 2

