

stand up straight, act and speak like the person you want to be. Pull your own strings. You are not a marionette. Accept responsibility and take control. Alter your attitude so that you see problems as challenges, opportunities for

future improvement. It is a great life, if you remain strong, and always maintain a proper attitude. No one can alter your attitudes without your permission.

Dehorning: No Hole Bared

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I am going to explain our technique of dehorning at the Hillside Veterinary Clinic in Maryville, Missouri. We like this technique because there are no open sinuses and no blood oozing.

Equipment you need are a propane tank and torch. We use five gallon propane tanks and obtain our torches from Zeitlow Distributing at Booneville, Missouri. These torches cost approximately \$70.00 each. Also needed is a burner box, and this we make ourselves. It is 14 inches by 10 inches and 12 inches deep. A pipe is put at one end to place the torch in. It can be lined with fire brick to help keep the heat in. You need at least four dehorning irons and we make these out of two inch round steel rods, one inch thick. We weld an 18 inch by 1/2 inch rod on for a handle. A spring is then placed on the distal six inches for a grip and to keep the handle cool. A miter box saw 12 inches long is used to cut the horns off. A For-Most head table is used at our clinic.

The first thing we do is start our torch and begin to get the irons ready. It usually takes five to ten minutes to get them red hot. We restrain the animals in a chute and tie their heads down with the head table. We then use the saw to cut the horns off at the hairline. The cut needs to be flat, but can be tipped to shape the poll. If you have yearlings with big horns you need to cut them lateral to the hair line so the sinus will not be entered. This usually is 1 and

1/2 to 2 inches from the head. This is done on yearlings going into feeding. On calves, cutting at the hairline usually leaves a closed sinus.

We then take the hot irons and place them on the cut edge. We stop the bleeding and burn the horn until it turns white in the center. We then move the iron around the outer edge and burn the skin back approximately 1/4 inch, forming what I call the brown donut ring. This keeps the horns from regrowing. The branding scab will fall off in three to four weeks.

Some of the advantages of this method of dehorning are no open sinuses and no blood or oozing of blood after the procedure is completed. Also, after performing the procedure, the calves have no blood running down the side of the face and the cattle are more attractive. It is also very quick and easy to do. Another advantage is that your dehorning season can be extended over a longer period of time with no worry of fly problems. We usually start around September 15, and quit around April 15. Very small horns can be removed year round, if some kind of fly control is used.

Some disadvantages of this procedure are that the equipment costs are higher than some of the older procedures. Also the equipment is bulky and hot to handle when hauling around on country calls. Lastly, the smoke can be annoying.

Monthly Herd Report Card: RX and Extra-Label Forms

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Production medicine veterinarians endeavor to manage the whole picture. To ensure that we cover all the programs involved during our scheduled visits, it's best to have some flowchart method to work from. We continually tell the client he can't manage without records; I believe records are equally important in our efforts to assist his management. I use a two page report that takes me through each management area. In addition to this report's benefit as a checklist for me, there are several other valuable reasons for its use.

1) The report gives me a method to reinforce my recommendations be reiterating my verbal suggestions in writing.

2) This written record also documents my recommen-

dations. This can be very valuable in those occasional cases when a client is seeking a scapegoat for his problems.

3) A few days after the farm visit, the client is reminded that my work didn't end when I walked out of the milkhouse.

4) Information is easily retrievable for later graphing.

Because these reports are stored on a word processor, we only have to retype the data that has changed from the previous report. The questions and labels on the report, (the standard document in the word processor), are in regular print, and the data is in bold print. This makes the report quite easy to read.

Before mailing these summaries, good and bad (opportunity) areas are highlighted with a red pen. I don't