

restraint is the most important aspect of this procedure.

The places I see this technique to be of most benefit are in smaller dairy herds on a monthly herd health program. I'm sure a very adept owner could be taught to do this, but risks of self injection would need to be discussed. I have also used this technique in beef herds when they have only a small percentage of horned calves. It seems we are out at most of the beef herds every 4-6 weeks during calving season so dehorning these calves at a young age is convenient if they are in an area where they can be caught easily. I hesitate to

inject beef calves with Chem-Cast in the summer and then turn them out. I had one dairy calf develop a mild fly strike (1-2 larvae) under the scab in July of this year so now I spray some fly spray on the calves done in the summer and instruct the owner to check them closely at feeding time.

**I am going to continue to use Chem-Cast in this extra-label manner to dehorn some calves, but I will continue to look for an even better way to successfully dehorn baby calves.**

## Graphing DHIA Records to Help Motivate Dairy Clients

**W. Mark Hilton, D.V.M.**  
*DeWitt, IA 52742*

Record keeping is not a favorite task of many of our clients. Our dairy producers on DHIA have the advantage over our other food animal clients of having a very valuable set of records generated monthly. The sad truth is that many dairymen spend a few minutes at most reviewing these records. Most, roughly know their reproductive and production figures, but only roughly, and many do not know if they have progressed or regressed over the past 6 months.

My way of becoming more involved in their herd's production and reproductive efficiency was by studying the herd summary sheet (the yellow sheet on Iowa DHIA) before and after each herd health visit. I then take this copy back to the office to graph out the selected data. After about 4-6 months, I can begin to see some trends where we are improving and where we need more improvement. I use the graphs not only to motivate clients, but also to spot problems early so that immediate action can be taken. The data I graph out is days open, first service conception rate, services per conception, days to first breeding, freshening interval, milk and fat production, and income over cost.

I started the graphs primarily due to one client that was, in my opinion, on the verge of folding. It was a typical, small, "family farm" type of herd where I not only became their veterinarian but also their friend. I suppose this was my way of doing a little extra to try to help them improve. This

particular owner was so excited about this progress once we started the graphs that he always had his records spread out on the counter as I came in the milk house so I could immediately see his improvement over the previous month. This is what convinced me to use graphs for my other herd health clients.

**We started on a herd health program in September 1983 and improvements have been made in all phases of his production and reproduction. In fact, this herd was one of the most improved in our county with an increase in milk production of nearly 3000 pounds per cow in one year.**

When the records were copied and sent to the owner in December 1985, the owner took them along to show his banker, and loans that were difficult to secure in 1983 were now much easier to obtain. These records in graph form were easy for the banker to read and understand, and he was impressed with the owner's progress.

**It takes very little time to do this extra work for my herd health clients, and I think it is well worth the effort. It has allowed me to be much more involved in all aspects of these dairy herds. We anticipate purchasing a computer and programming it to do our herd health records for us. I encourage any of you with dairy herd health clients to graph their most important DHIA data to help them spot problems early and initiate appropriate action.**

## Chain Tie Downs

**Roland S. Jeans, D.V.M.**  
*Evansville, WI 53536*

This is a four-foot piece of welded link chain. It has a grab hook on each end and it is used for a number of different purposes. The main purpose that I use it for is treating cows in tie stalls with milk fever, ketosis, mastitis, or any intravenous

injection that I want to give. The top drapes over the cow's neck. One end loops around each side of the stanchion bar, and you tie the animal up with a halter and that is it. They can't come over the top of the stanchion on you. They can't