**Dehorning Paste**

This method uses a caustic paste to kill the germinal cells of the horn.

This technique requires 10mls Lidocaine(2%), 5mls at each site to block the Cornual nerve.

**Procedure:**

* Administer sedation, analgesia and local anaesthetic.
* Expose the horn bud by pushing the hair back (The hair may require trimming for proper visualization).
* Apply the Paste to the horn button using a wooden applicator. Apply a thin layer.
* Re-position the hair over the paste and horn bud - i.e., cover the horn bud.

Although the package insert may instruct operators to clip hair at the horn bud, experienced operators have shown that not clipping hair is preferable, because the hair keeps the caustic in place, reduces the risk of irritation to the cows udder and flanks and reduces irritation to other facial skin of the calf.

* Protect the calf and the cow from accidental caustic burns. One method is to place a patch of duct tape over each horn bud. The duct tape usually falls off in a few days. For dairy calves, keep in individual pens.

**Precautions:**

* Ensure that the paste does not get into the calf’s eyes as it may cause blindness.
* Wear gloves when using the paste.

**Complications:**

* Horns or scurs may occur following improper technique.
* Paste may get into the calf’s eyes resulting in blindness

**Advantages:**

* Bloodless
* Can be used in any season (decreased risk of flystrike)

**Disadvantages:**

* Painful without anaesthesia (pain control required)
* Do not use in rainy weather (may cause paste to get in calf’s eyes)
* Horns or scurs may occur following improper technique