***Scoop, Gouge or Barnes-Type Dehorner***

Scoop dehorners are used for calves ranging in age from two to four months with horns up to four inches long. Some operators claim better dehorning with a rectangular-shaped scoop because it removes an even ring of skin around and with the horn bud. When used properly, it does not go too deep, but the dehorner can open the frontal sinus when used at the top end of the age and horn-size range. The blades must be kept sharp for best results.

**Technique**

Once horns have erupted, scoop dehorners, such as various-sized Barnes dehorners, can be used on calves from 3 months to a year or more, as long as the dehorner fits over the base of the horn enough to remove a 1cm ring of skin. By pushing down on the handles and forcing them apart while maintain pressure, the sharp metal edges make an elliptical cut that removes the horn and surrounding skin and exposes the cornual arteries. If conditions allow, one can tilt the head over to one side to cut the top horn and pull the head over in the opposite direction to cut the other horn; although both horns can usually be cut with the head tilted in just one direction by maneuvering the handles a little. The exposed cornual arteries and any available branches are grasped with hemostatic forceps and pulled out slowly in the same plane as the head until they snap. That way, the artery remnants are beneath the bone and under the skin where they can clot. One to four arteries may be seen spouting and can be pulled. Often doing the one main ventral artery is sufficient.

A thermal cautery dehorner can be applied to the exposed bleeding area for hemostasis. The opening into the sinus can be left open, or a thin piece of gauze can be laid across it to help stem minor bleeding and cover the sinus opening to keep it clean.

The jaws of the gouger should be cleaned and disinfected between calves.

**Advantages**

* fast - takes a few seconds to perform
* useful after the horn bud attaches to the skull
* several instrument sizes available

**Disadvantages**

* bloody
* painful
* risk of infection because of open wounds
* opens the frontal sinus in older calves
* should be avoided during fly season
* unreliable when done incorrectly, leads to scurs
* requires expertise - anaesthesia, sedation, analgesia and technique
* requires control of bleeding - pulling arteries or cautery
* risk of injury to handler