Client communication

Be prepared to see:

* decreased liveweight gains (productivity) in the weeks following castration of older calves

It is preferred to do castration at a younger age because:

* techniques are easier for the operator
* castration is less stressful on newborn calves
* concerns for animal welfare related to castrating older calves

After the procedure:

* Provide a clean, dry environment for calves after castration.
* Inspect the cattle closely for two weeks after castration. With latex bands, the scrotum should drop off within seven weeks after castration.
* Look for swelling, signs of infection, tetanus and abnormal gait.
* Treat wounds as needed.
* Get professional help when calves show swelling, severe pain or infection.