**ADVANTAGES OF DEHORNING**

Advisors commonly recommend dehorning young calves to:

* reduce the risk of injury and bruising to herd mates
* prevent financial losses from trimming damaged carcasses caused by horned feedlot cattle during transport to slaughter
* require less space at the feed bunk and in transit
* decrease risk of injury to farm workers, horses and dogs
* decrease risk of death, illness and setback by dehorning young calves versus older calves
* gain a price advantage by offering hornless cattle at auction
* produce docile cattle that are easier to handle
* decrease aggressiveness at the feed bunk
* enhance on-farm safety for animals, producers and employees
* facilitate easier use of handling facilities

**DISADVANTAGES OF DEHORNING**

* stress and pain may be caused to the animal during and after the procedure
* reduced weight gains for several weeks after dehorning
* risk of infection in the skull sinuses (holes left behind when horns are removed from larger animals)
* risk of excessive bleeding
* reduced ability to protect themselves from predators
* increased holding time in the squeeze. Some producers feel that this will cause excessive stress and occasionally death in bison