

NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES

**CALF MANAGEMENT
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**Agriculture &
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Department:
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



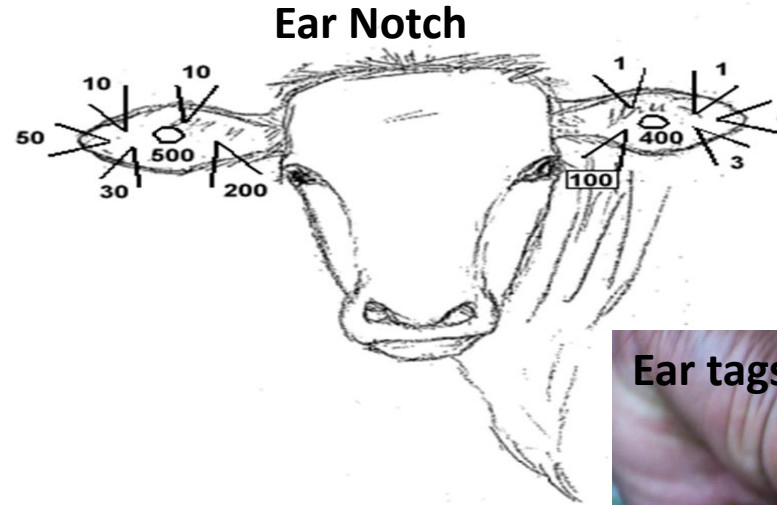
Introduction

- Livestock are marked using assorted marks ,in a number of different ways for various reasons which include:
 - 1.To prove ownership.
 - 2.For record purpose



METHODS OF IDENTIFICATION

1. Ear notches
2. Tattooing
3. Ear tags
4. Branding



Tattooing



- Tattoos are made using spiked letters placed in a pliers like instrument.
- The area where the tattoo is to be applied is the ear T
- Tattoo paste, liquid or black stove polish is rubbed vigorously in the hole.
- Tattoos are permanent.



HOT IRON BRANDING



- Calves must be brand marked at the age of six – seven months.
- Cattle are branded on the lower part of the left thigh, second owner on the left foreleg, third owner on the right thigh and the fourth owner on the right lower foreleg
- iron are made by mild steel or stainless steel.
- The height of the letters should be between 40-100mm and space between letters is 12.5 mm.
- Branding irons are welded on to steel rods about 1 meter long



METHODS OF DEHORNING

1. HOT IRON DEHORNING



- The horn-forming tissue at the base of the hornbud is burnt with a debudding iron which is heated by gas.
- Dehorning with hot iron should be performed when the calf is 3-6 months of age
- The iron is heated dull red and pressed on to the bud and slowly moved in a circular manner for about 10 seconds

2. DEHORNING WIRE



Castration

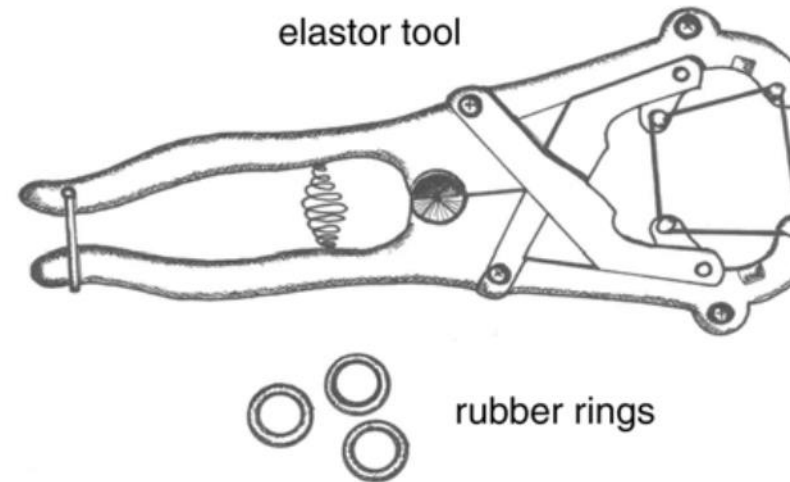
➤ Castration of a bull (male) calf is the process of removal or destruction of the testicles.

➤ A steer is a castrated male calf raised for beef.

➤ *Methods of castration*

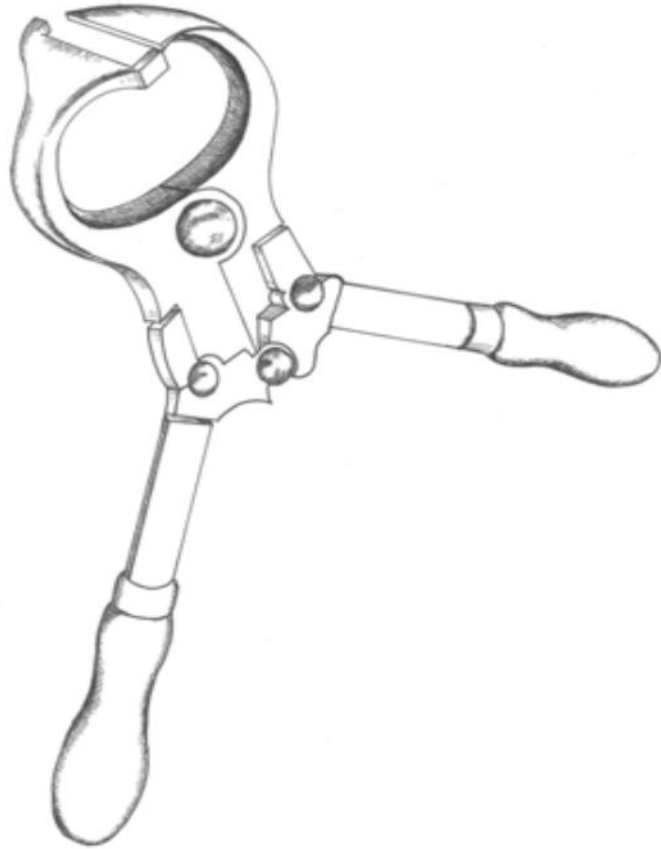
1. Rubber ring

2. Burdizzo



- The equipment for banding calves less than three weeks of age is called an elastrator.
- Elastic band castration cuts off blood supply to the testicles.
- A lack of blood supply kills the testicles

Castration



- The *Burdizzo* method crushes the blood vessels, interrupts the blood supply to the testicle and thus kills the testicle.
- Good restraint is essential because the *Burdizzo* must be in place about 10 seconds to crush the artery



Conclusion

- Identification within a flock/herd is valuable to producers and management to make logical decision based on animal records.
- Calves should be dehorned at early age. Other dehorning instrument such as knife and spoons are not recommended because these results in open wounds and further complications





Thank you