

Calf disbudding demonstration with Joris Somers

As a technique used in animal handling and production, disbudding of calves improve on the quality and quantity of the animal products.

Calves need to be disbudded early enough before they are 28 days old as any calf older than 2 weeks need local anaesthetic before the disbudding process. The local anaesthetic desensitizes the horn buds for safe removal.

Disbudding process

When going through the process, use local anaesthetic for calves disbudded and use anti-inflammatory injection for calves of under age. Feel the presence of horn buds and desensitize horn buds by injecting on both buds.

Similarly, heat up disbudding iron and inject calves with anti-inflammatory first. Check for desensitivity of horn bud using needle before disbudding. Find horn bud, remove hair, put the hot iron on buds for 30 seconds.

Finally, scoop out horn buds and apply aluminium spray to keep flies off the wound.