



Countryside Veterinary Clinic

September 2018 Newsletter

Calf Dehorning with Paste

In an effort to reduce costs many farms have now adopted paste dehorning (disbudding) for their young calves. Results are best when the calves are dehorned at a very young age (1-3 days of age) and the hair is clipped prior to paste application. A lidocaine nerve block is also recommended. For your safety remember to wear disposable milkers gloves as the paste is very caustic. "Dr. Larson's" dehorning paste is the preferred product for this procedure and can be purchased at the clinic for \$5.50 per tube. Each tube will dehorn approximately 20-30 young calves. If you would like help dehorning your calves with this simple procedure, please contact your herd veterinarian.

Equipment needed:

- Caustic Paste
 - Nitrile gloves
 - Safety glasses (recommended)
 - Lidocaine injectable
 - 35 cc syringe
 - 20G x 1" needles
 - Duct tape (recommended)
 - Scissors/clippers
1. Put on a new pair of nitrile gloves and protective safety glasses.
 2. Administer 5.0 ml of lidocaine to each side (10 ml per calf) below the ridge to block the cornual nerve (nerve to the horn). See below for nerve block protocol.
 3. Clip hair around the horn bud so the bud can be readily identified.
 4. Block additional calves to allow time for the lidocaine to diffuse. 5-10 minutes should provide sufficient time for the lidocaine to take effect.
 5. Restrain calf and palpate the horn bud location using your finger. Use the dehorning paste as instructed on the label. (Larry Larabee) A thin layer of paste should be applied to cover the entire horn bud and a small area of skin surrounding the horn bud to make a circle of paste. The final diameter of the paste should be about the size of a nickel. Repeat this procedure on the opposite side. Use caution to maintain adequate restraint of the calf to ensure that no caustic paste comes in contact with other calves or on your skin or clothing.
 6. Cover the pasted areas with a small, square piece of duct tape.
 7. Prior to departure, check calves to ensure that the duct tape remains in place and no calves have rubbed off any paste.

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Nerve Block for Dehorning Calves

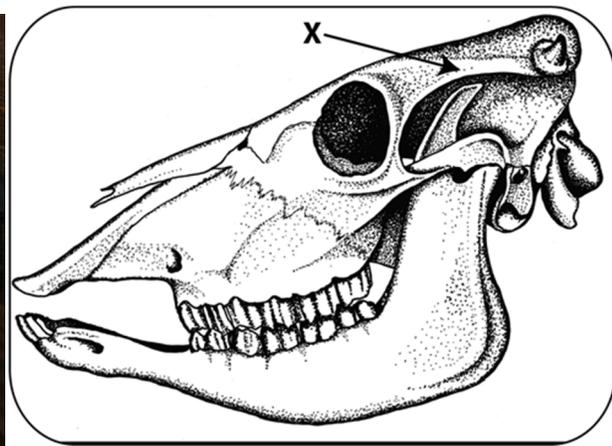
The cornual nerve is located halfway between the outside aspect of the eye and the base of the horn bud, directly beneath the bony ridge that can be felt behind and slightly above the level of the eyes. (Figure 2)

To perform the cornual nerve block:

- 1.) Restrain the calf between your legs and hold the nose snugly against your thigh as pictured in Figure 1.
- 2.) Palpate the ridge of the skull behind the eye and feel for a depression under the bony ridge.
- 3.) Insert a 20 gauge, 1 inch needle to the hub into the depression with the needle pointed towards the opposite eye. The needle should advance smoothly with minimal resistance. If the needle hits bone, redirect downward until the needle can be advanced all the way to the hub.
- 4.) Inject 5cc of 2% lidocaine and repeat this process on the opposite side.
- 5.) Allow 5-10 minutes for the lidocaine to take effect prior to dehorning the calf.



(Figure 1) The approximate location for needle insertion is located behind the outside aspect of the eye, halfway between the eye and the horn bud, directly beneath the palpable bony ridge



(Figure 2) The cornual nerve lies directly beneath the palpable bony ridge, marked with an "X".

**Rabies Clinic Thursday night – September 20th
7 to 8:30 pm at Lowville Town Barn on Bostwick Street.**

Read our newsletters: Remember that if you spot your name in our newsletter and call us within 5 days of the billing date, we will give you a \$10.00 credit on your bill