

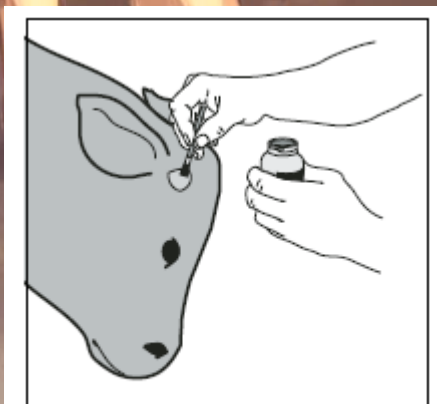
# **CHEMICAL DEHORNING**

## **General:**

- Chemical dehorning is the use of caustic chemicals, such as sodium or potassium hydroxide to burn horn buttons. Buttons are under-developed horns prior to penetrating the skin
- It is done 2-3 weeks of age
- This method is best used with small, supervised herds.

## **Procedure/ Safety and Precautions:**

- Wear gloves
- Wear eye protection
- Trim hair around the horn bud and out to make a one inch hairless diameter
- Apply petroleum jelly to the outside edge of the hairless circle (this prevents hair from burning)
- Apply chemical paste or stick to the button in the inner circle.



*Figure 2. Using caustic chemicals to dehorn calves*