



**Dehorning  
with pain  
relief**

**Dehorning  
without pain  
relief**

---

# DISBUDDING AND DEHORNING HURTS. DO IT RIGHT.

---



**DISBUDDING AND DEHORNING IS IMPORTANT.** While using hornless or polled breeds is encouraged, there are many horned breeds of cattle. Because horns can cause injury to other animals and handlers as well as contributing to carcass downgrading, young animals should be disbudded to prevent the growth of horns. Disbudding should be done between two and six weeks of age.

**DO THE RIGHT THING** by following best disbudding and dehorning practice and expert advice. Incomplete disbudding creates future problems and pain and distress for your animals.

**PROVIDE PAIN RELIEF** – you'll reduce their pain and stress and it'll make the process safer, simpler, and easier for you.

**ASK YOUR VET** or farm consultant before carrying out these procedures to ensure you get the best advice and use the right tools for eliminating pain.

---

For more detailed information on minimum standards and best practice guidelines please refer to the Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare available from MAF Biosecurity New Zealand on 04 894 0366 or visit [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare)

**NAWAC**  
National Animal Welfare  
Advisory Committee

New Zealand Government