



“Effect of age and handling on pain assessment and mitigation of common painful routine management practices”

MEASURING AND MITIGATING PAIN DURING CASTRATION

PROJECT NO.: ANH.21.13

LEAD RESEARCHERS: Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein, Ph.D. (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) and Ed Pajor, Ph.D. (University of Calgary)

OTHER RESEARCHERS: Eugene Janzen, D.V.M.; M.V.S.) (University of Calgary), and Pain and Animal Welfare Group (University of Calgary)

Objectives: To evaluate the relative impacts of age, technique, and pain medication when preweaning beef calves are castrated at the same time as branding or as a separate procedure.

Background: Public concern regarding the pain associated with castration, dehorning and branding of beef cattle is increasing. Past research has focused on individually housed dairy calves, or feedlot cattle. There is a lack of information regarding the influence of age and pain medication on preweaning beef calves in a herd environment.

Implications of the Research: This research will generate science-based recommendations regarding the best age to carry out painful routine management procedures and identify target ages which may require pain mitigation. A practical method of alleviating both acute and chronic pain associated with band and knife castration in young beef calves will also be assessed and identified. This information is required to make sound industry recommendations to the Beef Codes of Practice.



www.albertabeef.org