

The Effect on Artery Clamp for Dehorning Cattle
(a preliminary study only)¹
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Forty horned yearling heifers owned and fed by a cooperating feeder were used. Allotment was by gate cut into four groups of 10 each. Each group was weighed before being dehorned. Treatments follow:

1. Control - not dehorned.
2. Dehorned using clamp; arteries pulled.
3. Dehorned without dehorning clamp; arteries pulled.
4. Dehorned without dehorning clamp; arteries not pulled. After one hour, bleeding from several animals was so severe that dehorning clamps were used and arteries were pulled.

All cattle were placed in one large lot and fed the same ration. The trial lasted 22 days.

Results

Weight gain results are in table 15. Cattle not dehorned gained the most; those dehorned using the clamp gained more than either lot dehorned without initially using a clamp.

The clamp stopped artery spurting and appeared to reduce pain as cattle remained quieter in the chute while being dehorned and showed less distress after being released.

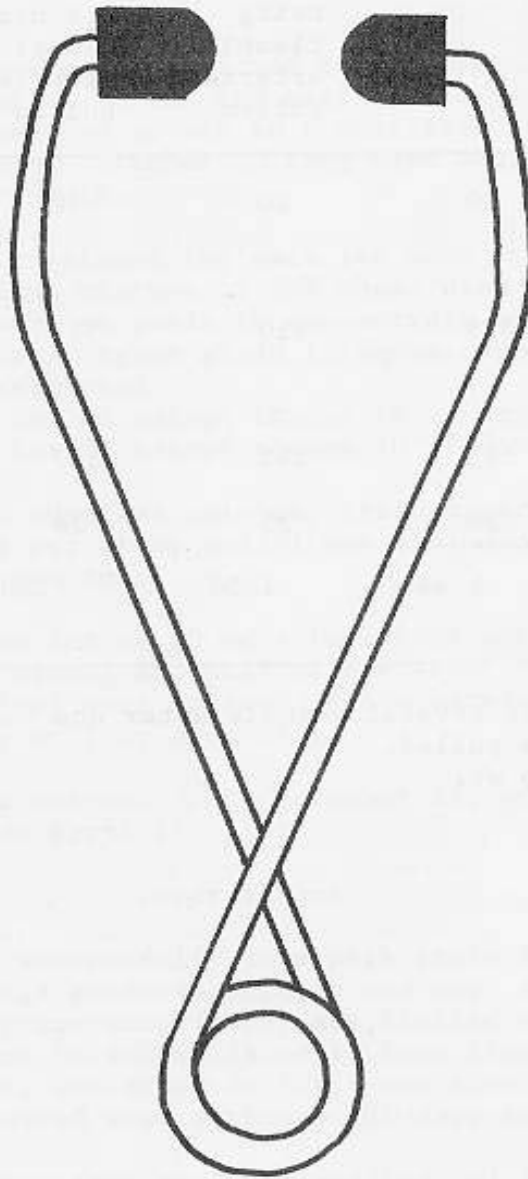
The clamp (pictured) has two blunted ends held together by spring tension. The blunted ends are pulled apart and placed just behind the temporal fossa and pulled forward into it, to help hold the clamp in place. This area is located below the horn and behind the ridge between the eye and horn. The cornual artery and nerve pass this area enroute to the horns. The clamp stops blood from spurting from the arteries when the horn is removed. The arteries are exposed and can be pulled easily.

Use of the clamp made it much easier to find the arteries and blood spurting was completely eliminated. Little time is required to apply the clamp but a close job of dehorning is necessary to adequately expose the arteries. Best results are usually obtained on thin yearling cattle.

More work will be required before definite conclusions can be drawn concerning use of such clamps.

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Figure 1



Artery Clamp

Table 16
Weight Gain of Heifers as Influenced by Use of an Artery Clamp in Dehorning

Treatment	Control	Dehorned using clamp; arteries pulled	Dehorned not using clamp; arteries pulled	Dehorned not using clamp or pulling arteries for 1 hour ¹
No. cattle	10	10	10	10
Av. beginning wt. lbs. ² Jan. 5, 1967	529	510	541	530
Av. final ² wt. lbs. Jan. 27, 1967	565	543	567	558
Total gain, lbs.	36	33	26	28
Av. daily gain	1.64	1.50	1.18	1.27

1. Bleeding was severe in several animals after one hour so the clamp was used and the arteries pulled.
2. Average of each group wt.