Veterinary Science
Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant

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Preparing Livestock for Shipment

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Objectives

- Describe the process of preconditioning
- Describe the process of backgrounding
- Discuss the need for dehorning and castration
- Discuss fire branding and freeze branding
- Describe the schedule used for implanting
Health and Production Practices

- To minimize disease and stress
  - From weaning to slaughter
  - During sales and shipment

- To increase body weight, sale value and profit
Preconditioning of Nursing Calves

- Identifying
  - Ear tag, tattoo, brand
- Castrating
- Dehorning (Debudding)
- Implanting
- Vaccinating
- Deworming, deflying, degrubbing, delicing
- Creep feeding
Immunizing Calves

Pregnant cows
- 1 to 3 months before calving
- Immunity to calves through colostrum

Calves – 2 vaccinations
- 2 to 4 months of age
- 4 to 6 months of age (3 weeks before weaning)
Branding Calves

- Fire brand – hip, thigh, shank
  - To prevent reduction of hide value

Freeze brand – horses
Dehorning Calves

- Birth to 1 month of age
  - Burn horn buds – hot iron (debudding)

- Over 1 month of age
  - Remove horn – cutter (dehorning)

To reduce injury to people and other cattle
To increase sale value
Castrating Calves

- Birth to 2 months of age – minor stress
- 2 to 4 months of age – major stress
- 4 to 6 months of age – extreme stress
Implanting Calves

- 2 to 4 months of age
- Growth promotant under skin of ear
- To improve feed efficiency and rate of gain
Backgrounding Weaned Calves

Calves confined 21-45 days immediately after weaning to overcome weaning stress.
  - Feed grain and hay.

Calves shipped after backgrounding period.
Sheep and Goats

- Castrating
- Debuudding
- Tail docking
- Tattooing

- Birth to 1 day of age
- 1 week of age
- 6 weeks of age
Swine

- Needle teeth clipping
  - To prevent injury to other pigs and sow
- Tail docking
  - To prevent tail biting
- Castrating
- Ear notching
- Birth to 1 day of age