

Region code:

Disbudding of calves – questionnaire for beef farmers

Part one: Background information (Please cross or circle suitable option)

1. Respondent's gender:

Male

Female

2. Year of birth:

3. How long have you worked as a beef farmer?

Less than one year

1–5 years

6–10 years

11–20 years

Over 20 years

4. How many of your beef cows calves on your farm annually?

5. Do you breed yourself heifers?

Yes

Yes some of them

No

†

6. Do you breed yourself fattening bulls?

Yes, all of them

Yes, some of them

No

7. Your breed of the beef cow: Please circle the two most common breeds on your farm:

ab, ch, hf, li,

si, pi, ba, hc,

de, ga, lh,

crossbreed, other

8. Do you have a herd health management agreement with your veterinarian?

Yes

No

9. Type of housing for beef cattle: (Circle every suitable option)

• Insulated

• Uninsulated

• Free-stall

o cubicles

o boxes

o compartments

• Tie-stall

• Litter

• Slatted floor

10. Does your farm belong to the Finnish beef herd surveillance system?

Yes

No

Part 2: Disbudding of calves (Please cross suitable option)

1. Do you have beef cows with horns?

Yes, all of them

Yes, some of them

No

2. If you currently have or previously had cows with horns, do horns pose any danger to humans?

Yes

No

3. Do you have polled beef cows?

Yes, all of them

Yes, some of them

No

†

4. Do you have beef cows disbudded when calves?

Yes, all of them

Yes, some of them

No

5. Do you have tipped (horns sawn) beef cows?

Yes, all of them

Yes, some of them

No

6. Do you disbud on your farm?

Yes, all of the calves

Yes, some the calves

No

If you answered "No" to the sixth question (Do you disbud on your farm?) in the previous part, please pass straight to part four. Part three is meant only for farmers who disbud on their farms.

Part 3: Standard practice of disbudding (Please, cross the suitable option)

1. How long have you disbudded on your farm?

Less than a year

1 - 5 years

6 - 10 years

Over 10 years

2. Who is the person responsible for disbudding (actual cautery procedure) on your farm? You can cross more than one option:

Owner

Veterinarian

Artificial inseminator

Hoof trimmer

Other person working in the farm

Other person

3. Does the veterinarian medicate the calves for the disbudding on your farm? (Please choose one option)

Yes, always

Yes, often

Yes, sometimes

Yes, rarely

Never

†

4. What pain alleviation does your veterinarian use on the calves prior to disbudding? (You can choose more than one option):

Sedatives

Local anesthesia

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, once

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, the day after disbudding

I don't know

5. Do you medicate the calves yourself if the veterinarian is not present on the day of disbudding?

Yes

No

Sometimes

Veterinarian is always present

6. Do you use local treatment for the burns after disbudding?

Yes

No

Sometimes

7. At which age are the calves disbudded on average on your farm?

Less than a week

1-2 weeks

2-4 weeks

Over 4 weeks

8. Have all of the disbudding procedures succeeded on your farm?

Yes, always

Yes, often

Rarely

Sometimes

Never

†

9. If you disbud (actual cauterizing) yourself, do you have sufficient guidance/education/information?

Yes

No

No need

10. In your opinion, has your veterinarian provided enough information about disbudding?

Yes

No

No need

11. Can you get a veterinarian on your farm to disbud the calves whenever needed?

Yes

No

No need

Part 4: Perceptions (Please cross the suitable option)

Please answer the next part even if you do not disbud on your farm. Your opinions on the following statements are very important. Choose the best option from 1–5 for the following statements such that option 1 represents complete disagreement and option 5 complete agreement.

1: Totally disagree ☹

5: Totally agree ☺

	1☹	2	3	4	5☺
Disbudding without medication causes the calf pain.					
The calf requires no pain medication for disbudding.					
In my opinion, if the calf suckles immediately after the disbudding procedure, it is a sign that that disbudding was not too painful for the animal.					
The welfare of the animals is important to me in my job.					
	1	2	3	4	5
It is easy to estimate the pain of a calf.					
If I could inject the calf with pain medication myself before disbudding, I would.					
If I could inject the calf with anaesthetics myself before the disbudding procedure (inject an anaesthetic substance around the horn buds), I would.					
If I could tranquilize (anaesthetize) the calf myself, I would.					
The calf may feel pain for as long as 3 d after the disbudding procedure.					
	1	2	3	4	5
Veterinarians take administration of pain medication to the calf seriously.					
It is too expensive to have a veterinarian medicate the calf for disbudding.					
I would only keep polled animals, if it were possible.					
Polled beef cattle cause fewer injuries to others than horned cattle.					
Hornless beef cattle get along with horned cattle.					
	1	2	3	4	5
The welfare of calves is discussed enough.					
Sedation causes more problems for the calf than disbudding without medication.					
The horns of the beef cow pose no risk to the stockperson.					
It can be seen from an adult beef cow how it has been taken care of as a calf.					
Painless disbudding increases calf's welfare.					
I could never disbud calves without administering any pain alleviation.					
	1	2	3	4	5
Sawing off the animals' horns is a better alternative to disbudding.					
Medication eliminates pain during disbudding.					
Disbudding is not my one of my favourite job.					
Calves should never be disbudded.					
Fully-grown beef cows need their horns.					

Part 5: Pain experienced by the animal (Please cross the suitable option)

Next we ask you to estimate the pain felt by the cattle caused by some diseases, accidents or practices on the scale of 0–10 (0 represents no pain at all and 10 represents the worst pain imaginable). We understand that the task is not easy, but we want to get the information on viewpoints and estimations of cattle pain from those people who work with the animals. Your perceptions will help us to develop our research on cattle pain. Please think of the “average” situation for the following. If you haven’t faced the situation in question, we do however ask you kindly to evaluate how much pain is caused to the animal.

0=no pain at all 10=the worst pain imaginable

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Vigorous calving aid – pain to the cow											
Vigorous calving aid – pain to the calf											
Fracture of leg (open fracture in calf’s hind leg)											
Navel infection in a calf (navel is thick and moist, animal is feverish)											
Disbudding without pain medication (pain during the burning)											
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Disbudding with pain medication (sedation, local anaesthetic, NSAID, pain during the burning)											
Acute mastitis											
Uterine prolapse in cattle											
Umbilical hernias the size of a large apple in a calf											
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Abomasal displacement in cattle											
Severe tympania in cattle											
Needle injection (subcutaneously to calf)											
Teat tramping in cows (teat broken at the root)											
Needle injection (intramuscular, to adult cow)											