BEEF **EXTENSION** TH UCVM

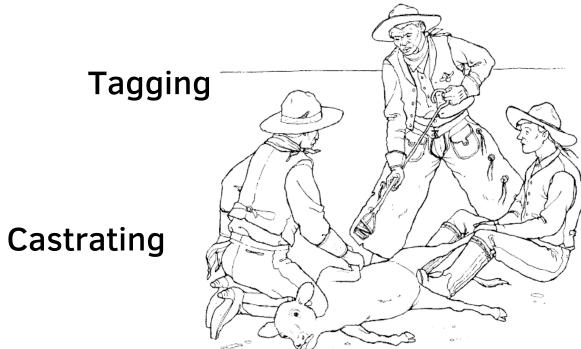
Impact of age and duration of maternal separation on the welfare of beef bull calves during spring processing

11/1

Calf stays with dam until spring processing (weaning)



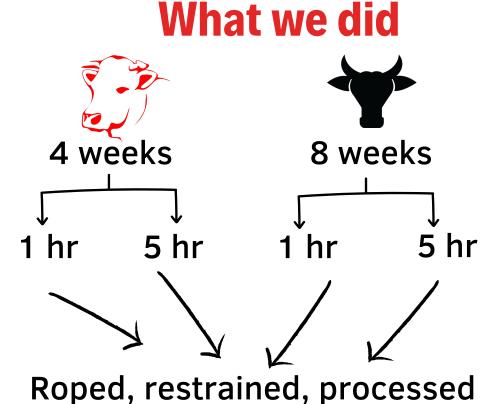
Calf separated from their dam



Handling and Restraint



- Does calf age and length of separation from its dam at weaning impact its welfare?
- Does calf age impact its welfare during separation from its dam?



What we found

Compared to calves separated for 5 hr from their dams, calves separated for 1 hr spent:



Compared to 4 week old calves 8 week old calves had: **Stress Score**



Sponsored by the Anderson-Chisholm Chair in Animal Care & Welfare

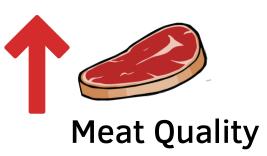


Vaccination

Branding

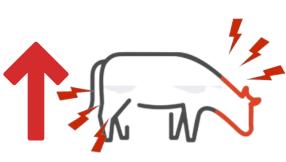








Protection from disease



Stress and pain

AGE

MATERNAL

SEPARATION



- Stress Score Behaviour
- Salivary Cortisol

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

Longer maternal separation before processing improves calf welfare

Calf age at processing does not appear to impact calf welfare after processing