CASTRATION



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ADVANTAGES** | **DISADVANTAGES** |
| * Reduces male aggression, hence making most males easier to handle * Risks of unwanted matings on a farm * Improved performance and conversion rates in castrated males * Reduced sexual maturity and hence higher racing performance * Meat may be of a higher quality than uncastrated males. Weight gain may be promoted in castrated animals. * Steer carcass is more expensive and meat may be more palatable * Quick, easy, and bloodless methods are available * May help in the correction of scrotal hernias | * Cheaper methods of castration which the farmer can do himself require a degree of skill and have a high chance of infection * The alternative which requires a veterinary surgeon means that it may be expensive * Lower FCR by 13% * Lower leaner meat * More fat deposition * Decreased daily weight gain * May be a traumatic experience in older animals. Although there are laws demanding anesthesia for castration of animals over a certain age, this involves the animal being herded, isolated and handled for the first time which is well considered a traumatic experience for the animal * There is normally a loss in weight gain and viability for period following castration in the young animal. This is typically noted in calves and piglets. However, this may be small once performed correctly. |