**Definition of castration**

Castration is the surgical removal of the testicles.

**Advantages**

* Reduces sexual activity
* Decreases the muscle pH of dark cuts of meat
* Makes meat more palatable more marbling and higher shelf life

**Disadvantages**

* Lowers feed conversion ratio 13%
* Animals have more fat deposition
* Decreases daily weight gain
* Lowers the amount of lean meat

**Reasons for Castration**

* To make Animal docile
* To allow for easy management of animals in the presence of female animals.
* To prevent unwanted breeding
* Malignant disease or irreparable injury of the testes.
* To promote weight grain in meat animals
* To correct a scrotal hernia

**Best Age for Castration**

* Cattle: 1-2 months
* Sheep and goats: 2 weeks
* Pig: First week
* Horse: 1-1.5 years old