



Effects of an anti-suckling (nose flap) device on septum injuries in beef calves

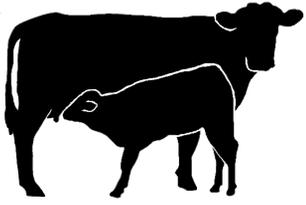
Ashlynn A Kirk and Cassandra B Tucker



UC DAVIS

INTRODUCTION

NOSE FLAP WEANING



HOW
Plastic flaps are inserted into the nose and held in place by the calves' septum; these are kept in for 4-7 days

WHEN
Beef calves are weaned at 6-8 months old

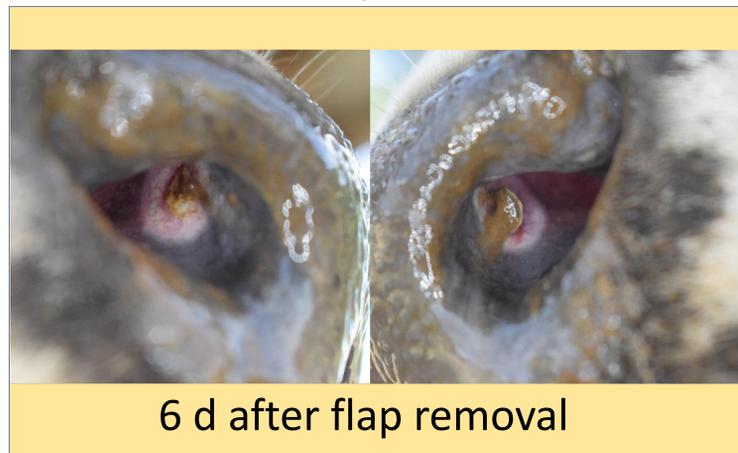
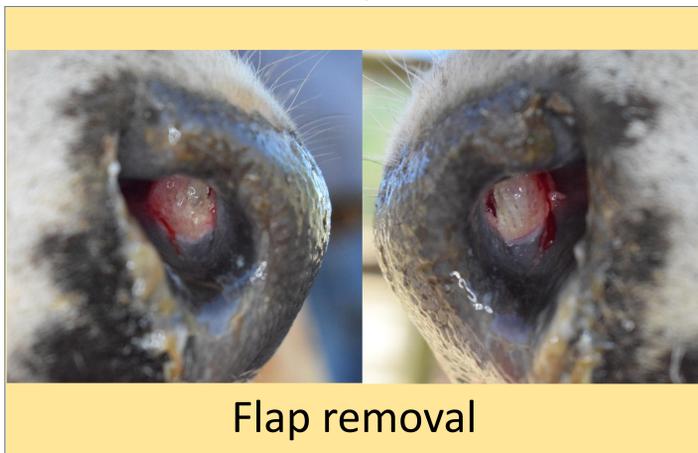
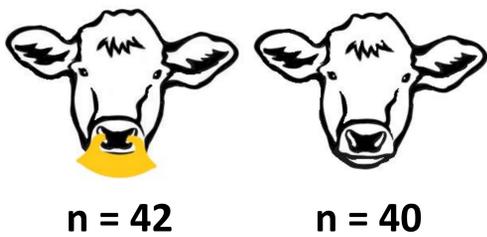
WHY
Low stress weaning method where the nose flap acts as a barrier from the dam's udder; calves are weaned from milk before physical separation

The nose flap must fit securely to the calf's septum so it will not fall out

Do these nose flaps create injuries?



METHODS



RESULTS

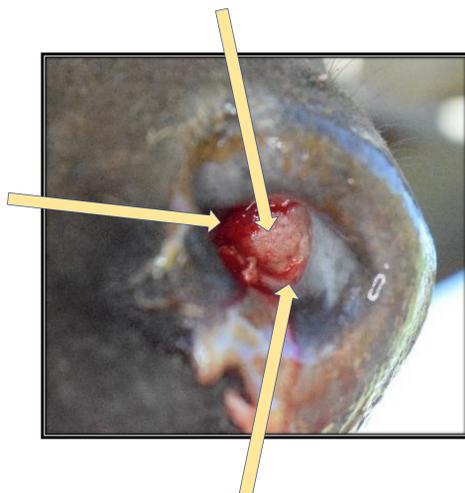
PHOTO SCORING

Evidence of Damage (y/n)

The tissue in the site where the flap rests is a different color than surrounding nostril; natural variation in nostril color (e.g. spots) are not counted as wound-related difference

Blood Present (y/n)

Bright red liquid present in the nostril area, either in or around the site where the flap would rest

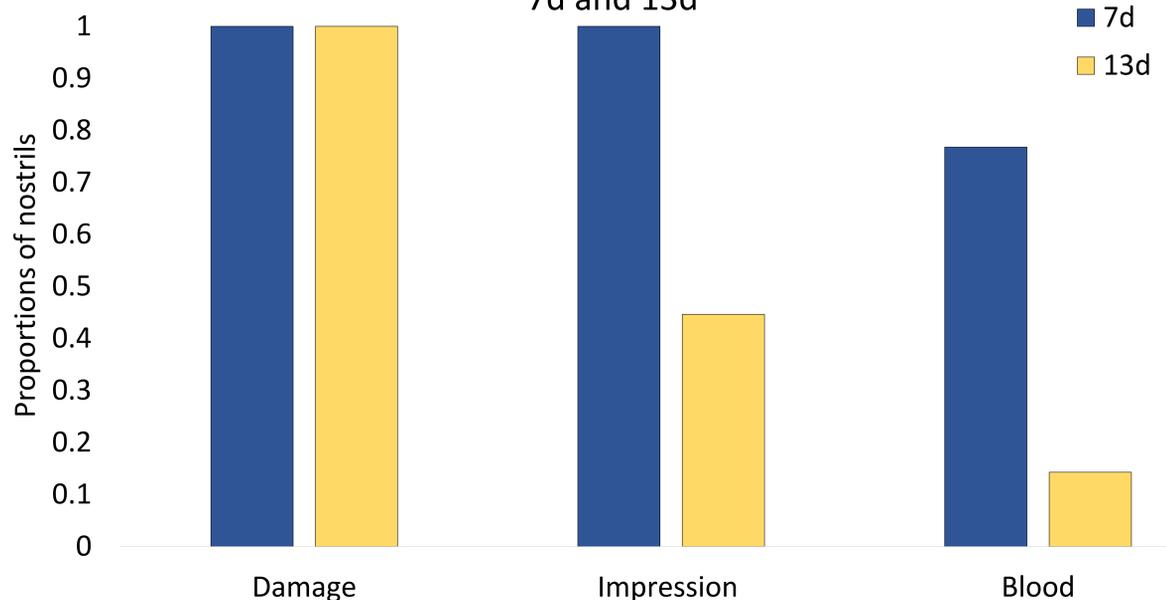


Visible Impression (y/n)

Edges of the wound are clearly raised or sunken, distinct from surrounding tissue. Can be an entire or partial circle or oval

There were no injuries in calves without flaps
There was an effect of flap presence on all 3 characteristics ($P < 0.001$)

Proportion of damage, impression and blood in beef calves on 7d and 13d



All calves that wore the flap for 7d have injuries, these injuries persist 1 week later