Animals lose weight, become sick and disease spreads.
Animals do not breed well and death of young occurs.
Overgrazing and loss of pasture, bushes and trees occur.
Loss of vegetation will result in erosion of soil and loss of good land.

Body temperature

The normal body temperature

The body can only work properly at a certain temperature. The animal body maintains itself at a constant temperature, within a small range, in order for the systems to work properly. This normal body temperature is different in different types of animals.

There are a number of ways by which animals control the temperature of the body:

- Hair, wool, walking, running, shivering and the burning of energy in feed keep the body warm.
- Sweating, panting, wallowing in mud, and lying in the shade cool the body.

Measuring body temperature

We use a thermometer to measure the temperature of the body. The unit of measurement is degrees centigrade (°C). The normal temperature of your body is 37°C. We measure the body temperature of animals by placing a thermometer in the anus.

The thermometer

- Look at your thermometer. Notice the silver line of the mercury inside it and the scale with numbers marked along it.
- Before you use it you must make sure that the mercury level is below 35°C. If it is not, shake the thermometer to make the level go down.
- Every time you use the thermometer clean it with cold water and soap or disinfect it afterwards.
Dehorning calves, lambs and kids

*Animals which have been dehorned are quiet and do not fight and cause injury to others.*

*The best time to remove the horns (disbudding) is when the animals are less than one week old.*

**Learning objectives**

After studying this unit you will know:

1. Why we dehorn animals.
2. What tools we need to carry out disbudding.
3. How to dehorn animals.

**Why do we remove the horns?**

Removing the horns from the animal means that:

- There is less chance of it injuring other animals.
- There is less risk of injury to people.
- An animal without horns needs less space at the feeding troughs.

The horns are best removed when still buds (buttons) on the animal which is less than one week old. This is called disbudding.

**The tools used to disbud animals**

To dehorn an animal you will need a dehorning iron which can be heated by electricity or over a direct flame. The end of the iron is round and hollow and will fit over the bud of the horn. *Using a hot iron is better than using caustic soda to remove the buds.*

**The tools used to disbud animals**