

Hoof Health Importance

Professional Services Veterinarian Department Technical Bulletin



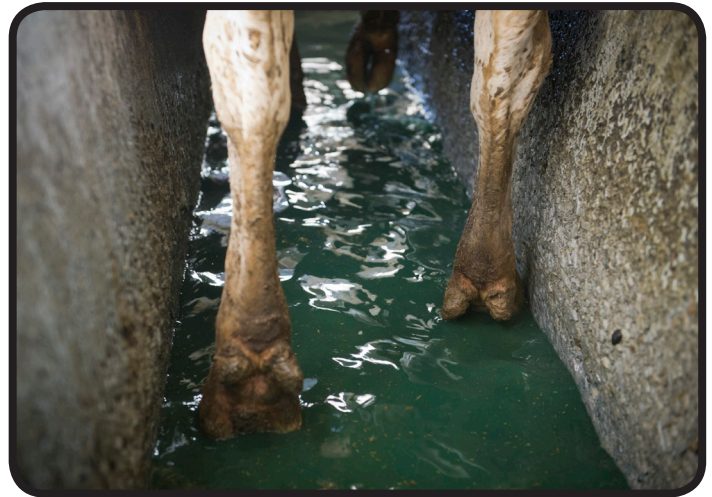
A hoof maintenance schedule is one of the most important contributors to successful dairy operations. Foot health is directly related to production and ignored lameness in a herd is far more costly than the price of a hoof health program.

The most common factors leading to lameness:

- Terrain and travel distance to the parlor
- Acidosis brought on by faulty nutrition
- Improper or lack of a footbath protocol

Minimize Rough Terrain

Excessive travel, especially over rough flooring wears the hoof horn faster and results in thin soles and abscesses. Poor sanitation and overcrowding can also lead to foot rot and sole overgrowth. Animals standing in manure for extended periods are often stricken with foot rot, and/or digital dermatitis. Consider using rubber mats to increase cow comfort and frequently clean alleys to eliminate excess manure.



Prevent Acidosis with Nutrition

Laminitis is inflammation of the sensitive tissues of the foot lying immediately under the horn of the hoof. It is recognized by a yellow discoloration or blood spots in the sole. The cause is often rumen acidosis that is the fault of nutritional imbalances. To prevent acidosis, gradually increasing the grain to forage ratio over time is the best way to prevent this problem. Your herd's nutritionist can offer advice to control/minimize acidosis in your cattle.

Establish Footbath Protocols

Footbath protocols vary, but are instrumental for healthy feet. Formaldehyde, copper with acidifiers, and zinc-based products are most commonly used. Frequency of footbaths differs from farm to farm, but using a footbath four days a week is widely accepted. For high incidence rates of digital dermatitis, continual use may be necessary until the outbreak is under control. Also take into consideration product rotation. Traditional formaldehyde isn't effective under 50° F. For the farms operating a four-day cycle, consider switching out copper sulfate with zinc for a day.

Also be mindful of improper use of footbaths. Footbaths should be no less than 10 feet long to ensure two dunks per foot and 5 inches deep is necessary to ensure complete coverage of the entire foot. Tunneling the bath will lessen the chance of the cow side-stepping the footbath. Footbaths are often set up in the return alley of the milking parlor.

To successfully know when a footbath solution should be changed, pH strips are an inexpensive and fast indicator. The pH level of the footbath determines the effectiveness and when the pH is too high, the chemicals in the footbath become ineffective. The pH should remain between levels of 1.5-4.5 while cows are passing through the foot bath. Generally a pH of 4.5 is exceeded after approximately 200 cow passes but using pH test strips throughout the process can give an accurate assessment of how many cows can pass through effectively. A general rule is the chemicals used should be 5% of the total volume. To determine the volume of your footbath, simply multiply length by height by width (in inches) and divide by 231.



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Copper Mate

- Formulated with copper, citric acid and zinc sulfate
 - Efficient in areas with hard water
- #14850 - 50 lb



Copper Sulfate*

- Use 5% concentrate for foot baths
 - Ratio of 10 lb copper sulfate to 25 gallons of water
 - Change every 200-300 cows
- #12169 - 50 lb



Epsom Salt

- Add to water for soothing soak
 - Reduces swelling and soreness
- #13066 - 8 lb



Formaldehyde*

- Use 3%-5% solution for foot baths
- #12809 - Gallon
#13445 - 15 Gallon
#17071 - 55 Gallon
#17072 - 275 Tote



Healthy Hooves®

- Sulphuric, phosphoric and maleic acid
 - Change every 400 cows
- #18758 - 5 Gallon
#18759 - 55 Gallon



Hoof-Tec™ Complete*

- All-in-one solution that contains low pH copper sulfate
 - Mix with water; no need for additional copper sulfate
- #16421 - 55 Gallon
#16423 - 260 Gallon



Hoof-Tec™ 1000 Concentrate*

- Lowers pH of the footbath to ionize the copper
 - Pour it on top of copper sulfate
- #16419 - 5 Gallon
#16420 - 15 Gallon
#16422 - 55 Gallon



NEW! Hoof-Zink*

- Concentrated liquid mineral source of zinc
 - Patented liquid zinc formula that has been shown in university trials to be highly effective in preventing the growth of bacteria known to cause foot rot
- #18762 - 15 Gallon
#15546 - 26 Gallon



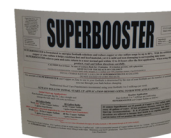
Rotational Zinc*

- To be used in a rotational program of products for the prevention of hairy warts
 - Mix 1 part zinc to 3 parts water for spray
- #13674 - 1 Gallon



Super Booster™*

- Controls warts, rot and improves hoof integrity
 - Reduces copper sulfate usage
 - Ionizes 100% of zinc in copper
- #16839 - 5 Gallon
#10496 - 15 Gallon
#18014 - 55 Gallon



Zinc Sulfate

- 35.5% zinc
- #10676 - 50 lb



***Hazardous fee applies. Call for details.**

Hoof Health importance

