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We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.

Linwood Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am – 5pm Sat 7am – 12pm Hwy 89 Clinic: Mon-Sat 7am-1 pm

NOTE: BOTH CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY

Orders for Delivery: ***Please call BEFORE 9:30 am*** for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service 1-800-663-2941

NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

Winter is approaching, with holiday closures and days where weather conditions can negatively impact our delivery service. Staying a little ahead on important inventory items through the winter can be helpful when roads are bad. Products will soon be delivered to you in the cold and it will be important to store them at the correct temperature as soon as possible after arrival.

November is the last month for the Boehringer Ingelheim Milk Culture Testing Program: If you purchased Boehringer products Cefal-Lak®, Cefa-Dri® or Dry-Clox® between May 1 and July 31, and have milk culture stickers, each sticker is good for a \$12 discount on a milk culture at the clinic, if submitted before November 30th, 2015.

The 2016 Zoetis desk calendars should be here for mid November. Pick one up at either clinic, or ask to have one put in your order.

Vaccine Handling

Vaccine handling is essential to ensure your cattle are getting the best protection for the vaccine being used. Outbreaks of diseases on farms that are vaccinated are more often caused by improper handling of vaccines before and during use, than they are due to the effectiveness of the vaccine. Below are some tips for properly handling vaccines.

- When mixing vaccines only mix what will be used up with in 1 hour of mixing. Vaccines that sit for longer than this time period start to lose their effectiveness, and by 3 hours post mixing are nearly useless.
- Handling of vaccines is important, especially MLV vaccines. They should always be kept cold at a consistent temperature of 4-8 degrees Celsius, from the time they are shipped until the time they are used.
- Vaccines should always be kept in a fridge or cooler that holds a steady temperature and not be kept on the door of the fridge as this is often the warmest spot of the fridge.

- When using multi dosage syringes or vaccinating more than a few cattle be sure to keep the mixed vaccine and syringe out of the sunlight and keep it cool.
- Never cross contaminate the syringe if you are using multiple vaccines.

No vaccine program will prevent 100% of disease challenges. However you can improve the odds by understanding the health status of the cattle, using proper vaccine handling techniques and the right vaccination program.

Hoof Trimming 101

Hoof trimming of dairy cattle is a very important task which should occur regularly on all dairy farms. A functional and preventative hoof trim can increase milk production, improve reproduction and decrease culling. Overall taking the time to ensure proper hoof health in your herd will directly and indirectly affect your bottom line, as lameness is both a welfare and productivity issue.

Lameness can be very costly on both a herd and individual cow basis. The cost (in lost milk production, decreased reproduction, etc.) of an average lameness case caused by digital dermatitis (strawberry foot rot) or footrot cost about \$150. An average sole ulcer case will cost \$250. These numbers alone make it very worthwhile to address all lameness issues in a timely manner.

Let's take a look at a typical scenario encountered by many dairy farmers. It's been a few months since the hoof trimmer has been out and a few cows have turned up lame this week. What should you do? Given the cost of lameness and the welfare issues you should definitely not ignore it.

Option 1: Call up your hoof trimmer for a special visit.

- Even if you only have 1 lame cow it is worthwhile to get your hoof trimmer out to fix her up. Leaving her is not only a welfare issue, but can cost hundreds of dollars in lost production.
- You can always throw in a few cows and heifers in need of preventative hoof trimming, making your regular hoof trimming visits shorter.

Option 2: Trim your own cows.

- Many farmers trim a few lame cows between hoof trimming visits. Hoof trimming isn't hard with the proper tools. Fixing up lame cows is well worth your time and effort. You will need:
 - Hoof trimming chute/table
 - Sharp knives and/or grinder

How to Trim Your Own Cattle

There are many ways to trim feet. The 'Dutch Method' is a simple 5 step method which works very well. The 'Dutch Method' will be outlined below and can be completed with either knives, a grinder or a combination of both.

Dutch 5 Step Method

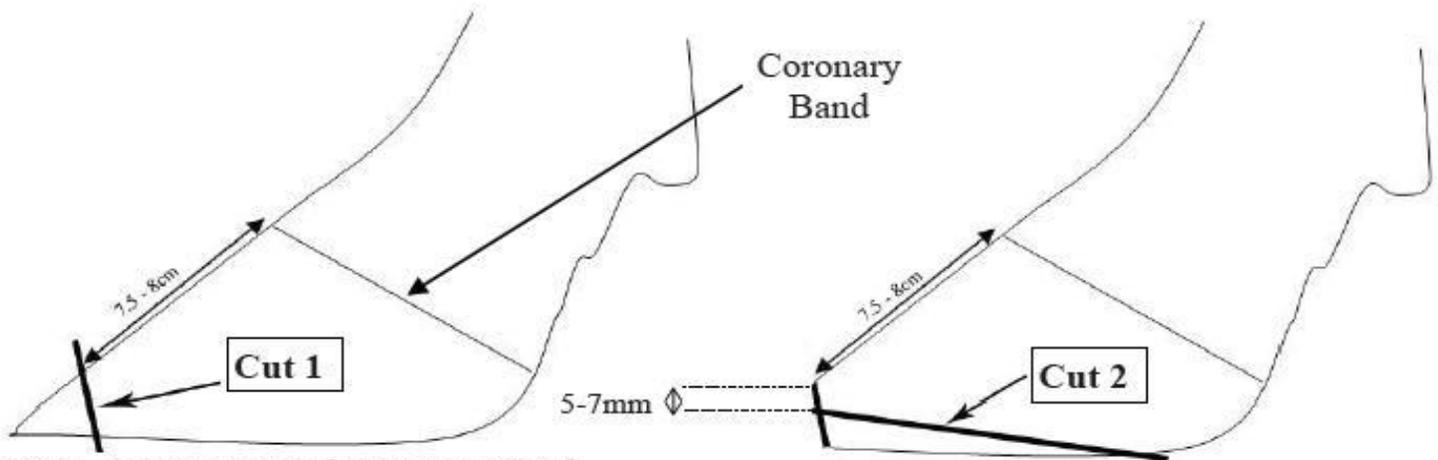
Routine Foot Trimming

- 1) Trim toe length to 7.5cm approx.
- 2) Match untrimmed claw to this.
- 3) Dish out

Corrective Trimming

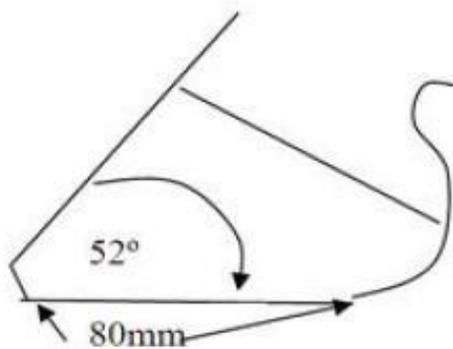
- 4) Relieve weight off painful claw
- 5) Remove loose/under-run horn and hard ridges

Step 1: Trim toe length to approx. 7.5 cm. (For hind feet, trim the inner claw. For front feet, trim the outer claw. This is because these claws are the most normal so start with them)

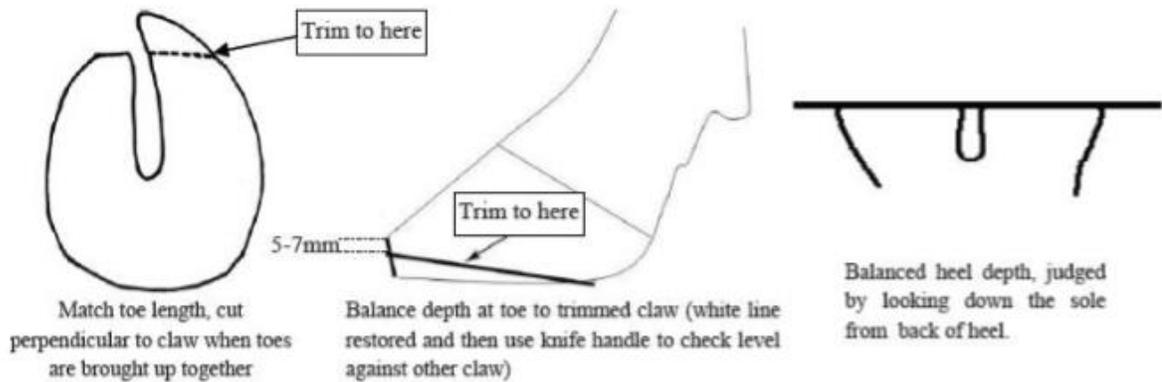


Cut 1 – measure 7.5cm from coronary band (placing fingers in interdigital space). Some large cows need 8cm. Cut at an angle similar to that in the above diagram

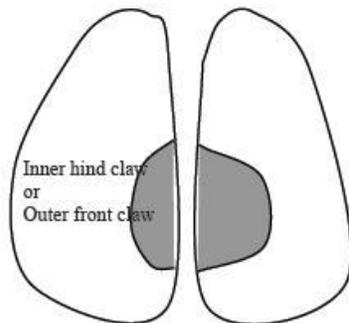
Cut 2 – trim sole so 80mm weight bearing (spare the heel), stopping before sole thinning ('give' on thumb pressure); trim until the white line just reappears at tip of the toe (5-7mm step toe)



Step 2: Match untrimmed claw. Don't measure, just match and balance weight bearing. Remember to always spare the heel, you don't want to trim the heel and make it too shallow.



Step 3: Dish out. This step transfers weight from the center of the sole to the heel, toe and wall of the claw.



The dishing on the inner hind claw need only be slight to help prevent dirt sticking between the claws. The dishing on the outer claw should be larger and shallower to relieve weight off the sole ulcer site. The combined dish should be enough to balance a chicken egg but should not produce a thin sole (no 'give' on thumb pressure).



Corrective Trimming- If needed:

Step 4: Relieve weight of painful claw.

This is most commonly achieved by blocking the sound, healthy claw with a wooden or plastic block. This takes the weight of the painful claw, allowing the cow normal locomotion and minimal pain while lesions such as a sole ulcer or digital dermatitis heal.

Step 5: Remove any loose or under run horn.

Any loose horn, heel erosion or other lesions like white line or sole ulcers should be trimmed out.

Addressing lame cows in a timely manner is of utmost importance from both a welfare and productivity standpoint. Lame cows have decreased milk production, decreased reproductive function and an increased culling risk. It would be crazy to ignore a lame cow in your herd.