Management Methods

Record Keeping

The use of an on farm record keeping system on foot and claw health can be one of the farmers biggest stools in the fight against lameness. It can be used to keep track of hoof trimming for both functional claw trimming purposes and therapeutic claw trimming purposes.

Example :

FOOT-CARE/LAMENESS DATA CAPTURE FORM

Farm: AABP Dairy North America

Service Date: 9-17-05 Trimmer: Mike Trimsalot Veterinarian: Dr. Hatesfeet

Cow #	Lesion code	Claw zone	Foot/claw	Block	Wrap/bandage	Treatment/comment	Re-check
1245	U	4	8	X		CT	30
318	D, E	10,6	56		X	CT, oxytet	
1534	A	3	6	X		CT	30
568	S	3	8			CT	
5248	L		18			Aspirin	7
624	N		78				Sell
782	C		5, 8			CT	120
845	C	5	5	X		CT, toe abscess	7
8765	U	6	8	X		CT	7
846	F	0	78			Naxcel - 3 days	5

Table Key for the above Hoof Care/ Lameness data capture form

A = White line disease, *A*bscess	*L* = *L*aminitis
C = *C*orkscrew claw	*N* = *N*onfoot (upper leg lameness)
D = *D*igital dermatitis, hairy heel wart	*O* = *O*ther condition
E = *E*rosion (heel erosion)	*S* = *S*eparation (white line sepration)
F = *F*oot rot	*T* = *T*hin soles (excessive wear)
H = *H*emorrhage (sole hemorrhage)	*U* = *U*lcers (sole, toe, and heel)
I = *I*nterdigital dermatitis	*V* = *V*ertical wall crack (sand crack)
K = *K*orn (interdigital fibroma)	

Infectious Diseases

The primary indications for footbath use are treatment, control, and prevention of infectious disease problems that affect the skin of the foot: foot rot, interdigital dermatitis (ID), and digital dermatitis (DD) or footwarts. Heel horn erosion is rampant in most confinement dairy operations and is believed to be caused by bacterial spirochetes that are believed to be the predominant causes of ID and DD. Use of a footbath is the most practical means for management of this condition. Immersion of the foot approximately 6–8-in. deep into a medicated solution generally provides sufficient surface contact to treat skin lesions of the foot, including those occurring in the interdigital space, and on the heels (heel horn erosion). Since the lesions of ID and foot rot commonly occur in the interdigital space, footbaths have long been the recommended treatment approach for these conditions. Whereas most DD lesions occur on the plantar aspect of the rear feet, on the heels or adjacent to the interdigital cleft some are treatable by topical spray or by topical treatment under a wrap or bandage. There are two types of footbaths: (1) stand-in or stationary and (2) walk-through. Stationary or walk-through footbaths may be permanent units built into the floor or portable systems made of fiberglass, rubber, or hard plastic. Portable footbaths are particularly useful for individual treatment situations that may involve bathing of one, two, or all four feet of an animal for a prolonged period of time (30–60 minutes). Very large stationary footbaths are used by some to provide the prolonged exposure of several animals to medicated solutions. A secondary advantage is that concentrations of certain footbathing compounds may be adjusted downward (in other words, less concentrated) when used for prolonged periods in a stationary bath.

Walk-through baths are the most common type of footbaths used for lactating cows. Since all lactating animals will ultimately enter and exit the milking parlor, this area (usually in the exit lanes) is a primary site for location of a walk-through bath. The following are compounds commonly used as footbathing agents:

Copper sulfate
Formalin
Zinc sulfate

Illustration of a cow passing through a stationary footbath leaving the milking parlour

Video Resource of the how a foot bath may be set up on a farm and its usage

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWi6i3YwEIk