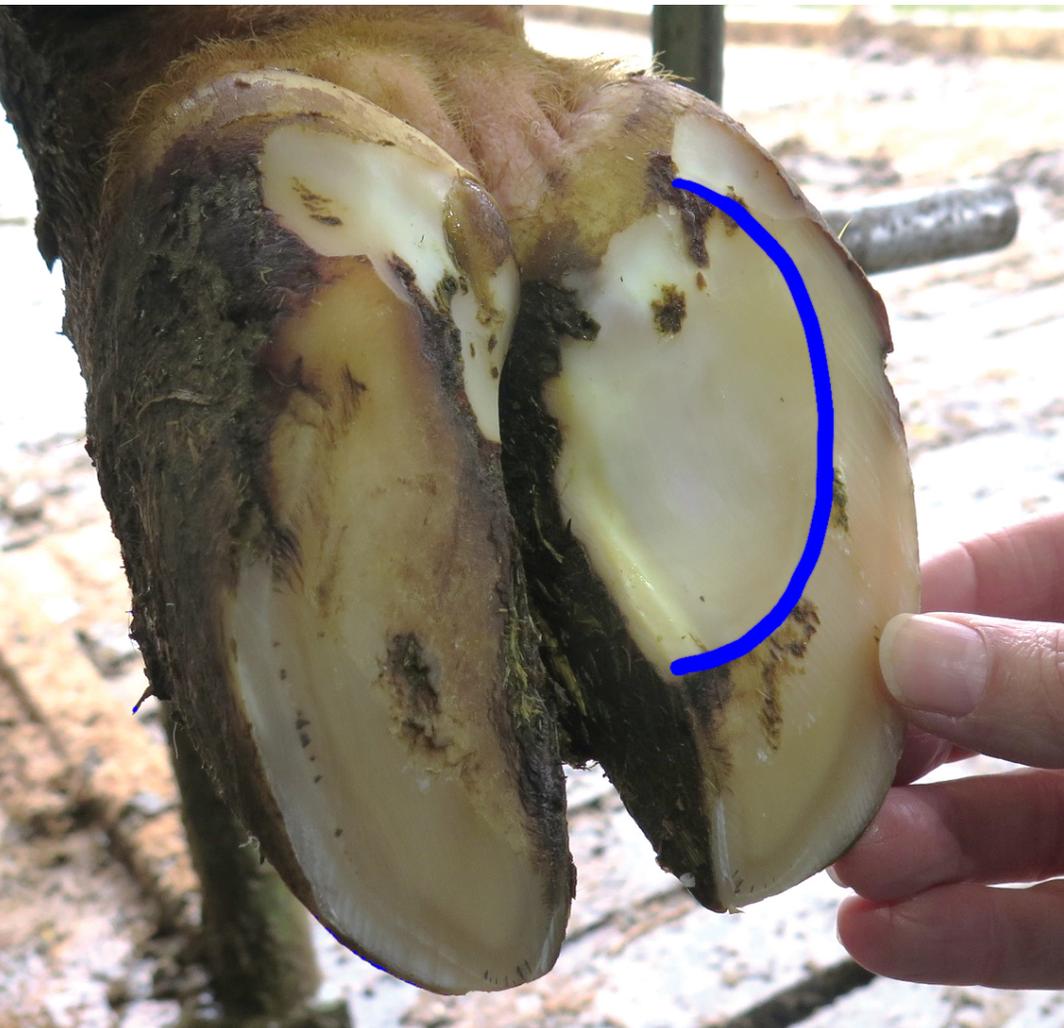




Dairy Hoof Trimming Guide



Maintenance Can Improve Animal Health



Dairy Hoof Trimming

Proper functional and therapeutic hoof trimming in dairy cattle can reduce and help prevent lameness and can also improve productivity and overall animal wellness. Research shows that cows with healthy, pain-free hooves stay in the herd longer, have higher milk production and generate more long-term profit.

Proper Hoof Trimming Focuses on Four Things:

- 1 Returning the hoof to the correct conformation
- 2 Achieving weight distribution between the inside and outside claws on each foot
- 3 Correcting any claw lesions
- 4 Discovering and addressing other foot infections, issues or injuries

When to Trim*:

- 1 Regular observation, identification and treatment of cows with a locomotion score equal or greater than 3
- 2 Trim springing heifers and dry cows 6 to 8 weeks prior to calving

*Recommendations for when to trim may vary based on farm management.

Lameness Prevention:

- 1 Focus on all cows having healthy hooves before the start of the transition period
- 2 Trim all cows at drying off
- 3 Inspect all cows during the first trimester of lactation at a time point which is effective at preventing lesions
- 4 Continue to select and inspect cows with a locomotion score equal to or greater than 3 for the duration of lactation
- 5 Trim springing heifers 6-8 weeks prior to calving.



Scan to watch a step-by-step video on how to trim to help prevent lameness

The Five-Step Dutch Trimming Method:

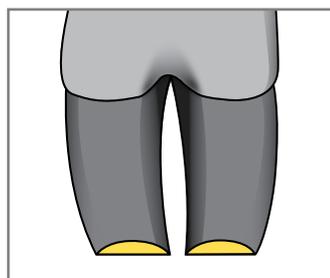
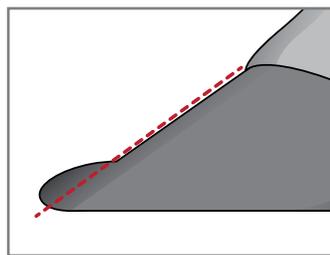
Step 1:

Trim the inner claw of a rear foot.

Before starting to trim, remove the buckle if one exists.

Use the Zinpro® Hoof Check Tool to determine proper toe length from where the horn goes hard below the hairline to the tip of the toe. Trim by cutting perpendicular to the sole. The appropriate toe length is 81 mm for average Holstein cows and bulls. Never trim any claw shorter than this.

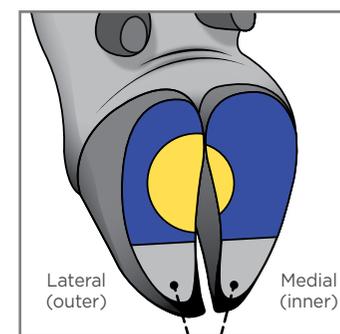
Trim any excess sole in the toe area to a thickness of 6 mm.



Step 3:

Modeling the soles.

Proper modeling relieves pressure on most common sites for sole ulcers and helps prevent build-up of manure between the claws. Modeling of the inner toe should be minimal.



Important tip: When modeling claws correctly, remember to **protect the toe triangle** and avoid cutting into the white line on the inside of the toe.

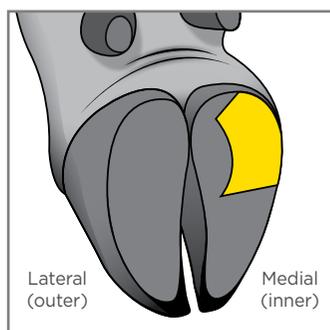
Step 2:

Balancing the foot.

When we balance the soles we are also trying to create the correct toe angle which we know will help to shift the centre of gravity forward towards the toe. A properly trimmed sole creates a flat, even, weight-bearing surface from toe to heel. Avoid removing heel horn from the inside claws on the rear feet. This will reduce claw angle.

The outer claw should be trimmed to the same length as the inner claw (they may visually not look the same length) by making a cut perpendicular to the sole. Trim the outer claw sole to the same height as the inner sole to provide even weight distribution across the entire foot. Use the flat handle of the hoof knife or the Zinpro hoof check tool to assess weight distribution within the claw and between the claws.

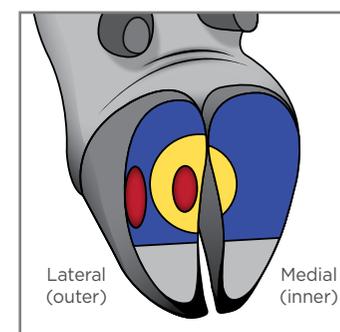
Important tip: When trimming front feet, follow the same steps, but start by trimming the outer claw of the front feet first, as a model instead of the inner claw.



Step 4:

Identify and therapeutically trim any lesions.

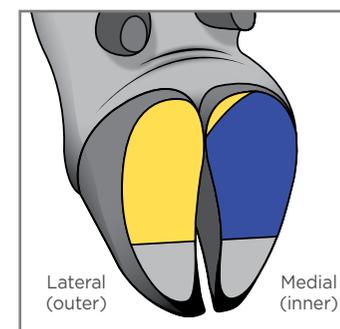
Look carefully for any hemorrhages or abscesses in the sole or white line. A hoof tester can be used to identify painful areas in the claw. Also, evaluate the skin between the toes or on the heels for evidence of infectious claw lesions. A block should be applied to the healthy claw to create a height difference.



Step 5:

Trim any loose horn.

Trim any loose horn in the heel area, trim down any visible ridges and remove all necrotic tissue.



WHITE LINE

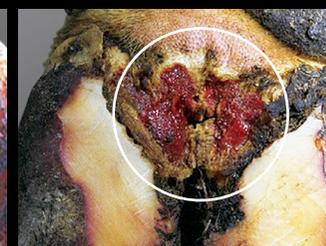
SOLE ULCER

TOE ULCER

FOOT ROT

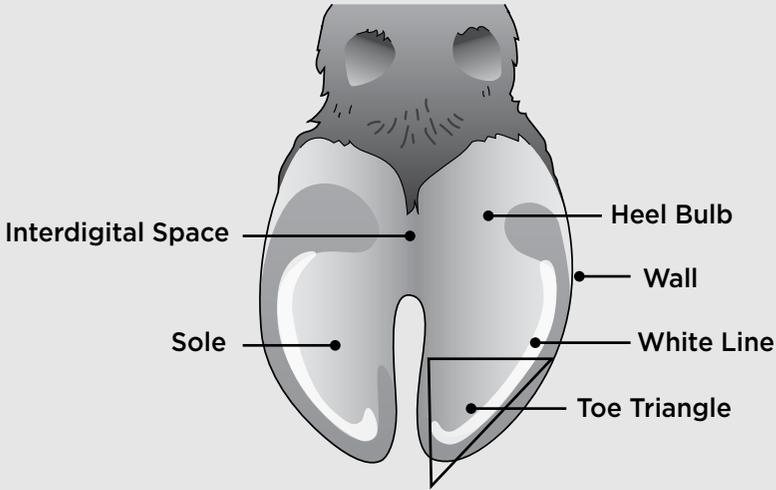
DIGITAL DERMATITIS

Most Common Lesions:

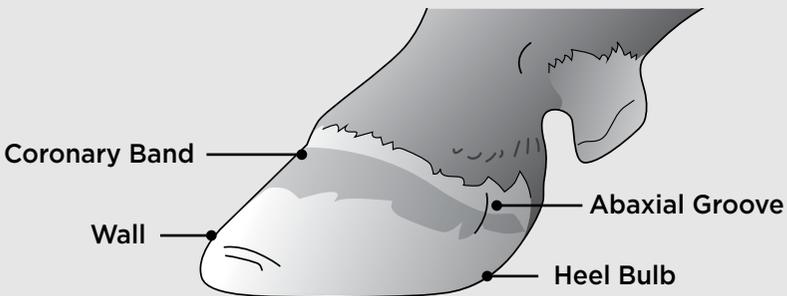


Dairy Cow Foot Anatomy

Rear View



Side View



Causes of Infectious Lesions

- 1** Poor hygiene or less-than-optimal trace mineral nutrition/nutritional insufficiency
- 2** Skin barrier incompetence, which allows bacteria to more easily penetrate the skin and migrate into deeper tissues
- 3** Biosecurity issues where the disease is introduced to the herd from an outside source
- 4** Environmental extremes such as warm, wet weather



The Equipment You'll Need:

- Chipper wheel or electric wheel grinder
- Hoof nipper
- Hoof knives
- Hoof tester
- Vet wrap
- Blocks
- Glue



Zinpro® Hoof Check Tool:

Available from your Zinpro representative, this tool helps ensure proper claw angle while maintaining proper heel depth and sole thickness.



Safety First:

We strongly recommend the use of personal protective equipment, including eye and ear protection and gloves.



About Zinpro® FirstStep®

The Zinpro® FirstStep® Dairy Hoof Health & Management Program takes the guesswork out of dairy assessments by providing a methodical way to evaluate an overall operation. With Zinpro FirstStep, you can move from simply managing challenges to proactively planning for and preventing the greatest risk factors within dairy businesses.



For more information:
contact your Zinpro
representative or visit
zinpro.com/dairy