# ~ Special Issue ~ Hoof Health Conference



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#### HOOF HEALTH CONNECTION



Published quarterly by the Hoof Trimmers Association, Inc.

HTA Objective: To provide educational opportunities and mutual support for hoof trimmers and promote quality hoof trimming.

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# President's Message

This message will be my last in the Hoof Health Connection as President of the Hoof Trimmers Association, two and a half years as President and eighteen months previously as President-Elect with a dedicated team of Board Members. Mark Burwell, Richard West, Gary Bucholz, Steve Wunderlich and Executive Director Jolie Estes remain steadfast, positioning the HTA for the here and now and prosperity in the future. For those of my board stepping down, you have earned well-deserved rest. It is with gratitude for what we have accomplished despite these adverse times that I wish each well.

These past thirty months delivered a new and expansive website, archived newsletters, the introduction of a webinar series, a new look to the Hoof Health Connection magazine, revised and renewed HTA Toolbox, bylaws and policy revisions, reestablishment of trimmers, taking care of our own with the Trimmers Assistance Program and the maintaining our relationships with AABP and research along with the establishment of new relationships with Dairy Cattle Breeders Council CDCW and USDA.

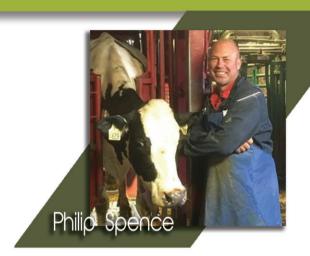
Additionally, we have seen continued support from our Sponsors. Our core group of members (you know who you are) continue to step up and lend a hand when called on. Those that have heart, give heart. You are appreciated!

Thank you to Area Representatives and HTA committees. Serving with you has been an honour and a privilege. Thank you for being there for me in my journey.

I sincerely wish Mark Burwell and the new HTA Board every success in the future.

Our long-awaited 2021 HTA conference for Ohio and British Columbia is now in the final planning stages. The Conference planning committee combined with Jolie's event planning skills will for the first-time combine trimmers physically together with virtual speaker to bring the conference to members in international locations.

On behalf of all HTA, I extend a special thanks to Richard West and his family for their generous donation of their special events property for the HTA Ohio conference venue.



I also want to thank the Western Canadian Certified Hoof Trimmers Association for their willingness to collaborate with the HTA in co/hosting conference in Salmon Arm, British Columbia, Canada.

Due to the ongoing Covid travel restrictions, it is prohibitive for cross-border travel. Due to these restrictions, I am prevented from joining you all in Ohio. I will, however, be there virtually. Wishing each of you all safe travels, healthy and interactive conference.

Till we can meet again, I leave you with a poem I wrote entitled 'Welcome Arms'

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#### Welcome Arms

This time with COVID has been a challenge for me. not a cup of tea In my heart, a feeling of heaviness, sadness, and remorse For our health and safety, they ask to "stay the course." We are asked not to touch each other, to hug or shake a hand. And to myself, well, if that doesn't go to beat the band. A struggle in my loneliness and sometimes desperation A pining and longing for, a lack of separation We are in a time where touch is considered an unlawful connection. There will come a time of my hugging and expressing my affection. Be on guard, my family, and my friends. My arms will open wide.

A smile from my heart to yours,
no reason to run or hide.
physically apart right now,
I will wait and bide my time.
They say that Love is all around,
transcends all time and space.
You will, without a doubt,
be welcome in my place.
Come on over from the other side of town,
the country or from overseas.
My arms will welcome you,
sit a spell, I miss you,
Let us have a cup of tea.

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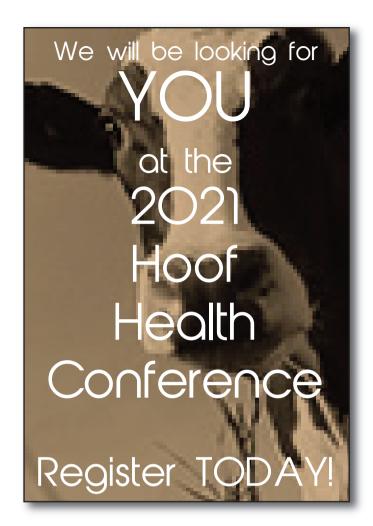
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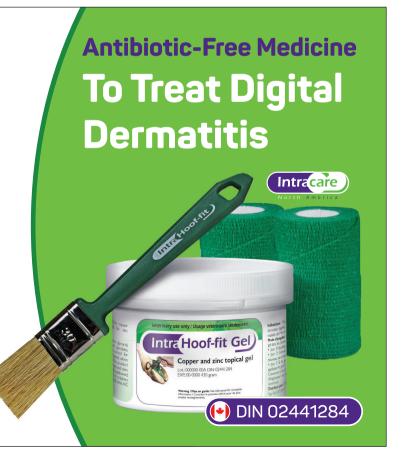




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# Developing a Strategic Plan to Create a Pipeline for Hoof Health Data in Dairy Cattle

Dairy cow lameness is considered an important animal health, welfare, and economic concern for the dairy industry. Estimates indicate that 50 % of dairy cows will be affected by lameness during their productive life, resulting in economic losses, poor health and deficient animal welfare. The costs per case of sole ulcers, digital dermatitis and footrot are estimated at \$216, \$133 and \$121, in milk losses, treatment costs and decreased fertility, respectively (Cha et al., 2010). Pedigree-based studies produced heritability estimates of 0.11 and 0.08 for infectious and non-infectious hoof lesions, respectively. Single-step genomic analysis produced heritability estimates of 0.14 and 0.12 for infectious and non-infections hoof lesions, respectively (Dhakal et al., 2015). These estimates do not include subclinical cases that may be overlooked but may still have a negative impact on productivity. Genomic evaluation for hoof health was introduced in 2017, analyzing hoof lesions recorded by hoof trimmers between 2006 and 2017 in Canada. Heritability and repeatability estimates for digital dermatitis were 0.08 and 0.20, respectively (Malchiodi et al., 2018) however, heritability and reliability of hoof health/lameness predictions are low. The use of additional producerrecorded data could potentially favor genetic improvement for health traits (Parker Gaddis et al., 2014). In general, there is consensus about the need to consider the construction of a new data pipeline to expand the amount of hoof health related phenotypes to enhance the reliability of genetic evaluations.

In the US, hoof trimmers, veterinarians and technical advisors provide preventive and therapeutic care for approximately 9.3 million dairy cows (USDA, 2019). Assuming that, on average, approximately 64 % of cows undergo 1.5 regular preventive trimmings per year (USDA, 2014), it could be expected that there are around 9 million preventive hoof trimming sessions

taking place every year in the US. Based on these figures, CDCB believes that this represents a realistic opportunity to collect enough hoof health phenotypes to develop genetic prediction models that could help dairy farmers to select cows with better resistance to hoof health and locomotion problems. Furthermore, a hoof health data pipeline would foster the development of management tools to improve the efficiency of hoof preventive care hence, enhancing dairy cow health. Based on this assumption, the US Council of Dairy Cattle Breeding (CDCB) reached different organizations and institutions, such as the USDA, Lactanet, University of Minnesota (UM), Hoof Trimmers Associations, (HTA) among others, to enquire information either, about hoof health or lameness projects implemented in the past, or prospective stakeholders (hoof trimmers association, data processing centers, hoof health management software companies etc.), that might be interested in developing hoof health data pipeline to collect hoof health related phenotypes for genetic evaluations, and develop hoof health management tools. In September 2020, as a consequence of this conversation, CDCB organized a series of three workshops aiming to discuss the development of a strategic plan to create a pipeline for hoof health data in dairy cattle. For this purpose, several experts from institutions with relevant experience in hoof health in dairy cattle were invited to participate in the workshops and share their experience. The participants were John Cole, AGIL USDA; Gerard Cramer, U. Minnesota; Phillip Spence Hoof Trimmers Association; Anne-Marie Christen, Robert Moore and Brian Van Doormaal, Lactanet; Juan Tricarico Dairy Management Inc. (DMI), Timothy Kurt, Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) Laura Solano, private DVM; João Dürr, Kristen Parker-Gaddis, Duane Norman, Cindy Ferrier and Javier Burchard, CDCB.

During the workshops, CDCB's CEO João Dürr made emphasis on the mission of CDCB, to drive global dairy cattle improvement by using a collaborative data base to deliver state-of-the-art genetic merit and performance assessments for herd decision making. Later, Lactanet experts presented the development of a pipeline for hoof health in Canada describing the Canadian project background and its objectives namely, a) Training the hoof trimmers to standardize the hoof lesion data collected using appropriate software, b) Development of a data exchange interface for connecting farmers and hoof trimmers with the Canadian DHI dairy database c) Development of a hoof health report to be used by trimmers, dairy farmers and technical advisors, and d) develop a hoof health genetic evaluation. Currently, the Canadian hoof health data indicates that 46 % of cows experience hoof lesions, being digital dermatitis the predominant lesion with highest heritability (0.084). Gerard Cramer (U. Minnesota) presented his current initiatives on how to monitor and make decision on hoof health based on data collected in dairy farms. Additionally, he summarized the challenges to maintain data collection and existing industry level programs. Philip Spence, from the Hoof Trimmer Association (HTA), summarized the current HTA organization, which has members from 38 US states, 9 Canadian provinces and 15 countries, among them trimmers, nutritionists, veterinarians, and dairy producers. HTA's mission is to advance the HT profession through educational opportunities. Laura Solano, a private veterinary consultant, described her practical perspective and challenges in maintaining the functionality of the hoof health data pipeline in the Canadian project. In her opinion, the most relevant critical points were to maintain the data collection by hoof trimmers and the participation of dairy farmers. During the third session of the workshop, the experts dedicated themselves to elaborate an understanding of the benefits, incentives and contributions related to every direct stakeholder namely, dairy producers, hoof trimmers and data analyzers, that are needed to provide an enabling environment for the project. Briefly, the overall benefits were better lameness management, enhanced

professional capacity of hoof trimmers, Increased value of DHI services and data exchanges. The necessary conditions and /or incentives are related to enhancing the technical capacity of the stakeholders, data integration with DHIA, simplified tools, capacity building of hoof trimmers, and hoof health advisors collecting and processing hoof health information in an harmonized manner. This is achieved with the implementation of tailored training and financial enabling programs. At the end of the workshops a preliminary leadership group was proposed, together with several steps to give continuity to this initiative. CDCB expects to identify focal persons within relevant stakeholder institutions, devise an action plan to be validated with stakeholders, secure resources and launch the project within 2021.

#### References.

Cha, E., J. A. Hertl, D. Bar, and Y. T. Grohn. The cost of different types of lameness in dairy cows calculated by dynamic programming. Prev. Vet. Med. 97:1–8. 2010.

Malchiodi, F., J. Jamrozik, J, Christen, A-M.,. Kistemaker, G. J., Sullivan, P. G, Van Doormaal, B. J., Kelton, D. F., Schenkel, F. S and Miglior, F. Interbull Bull 53:71-75. 2018

K. L. Parker Gaddis, J. B. Cole, † J. S. Clay, ‡ and C. Maltecca. Genomic selection for producer-recorded health event data in US dairy cattle. J. Dairy Sci. 97:3190–3199.2014

K Dhakal, F Tiezzi, JS Clay, C Maltecca. Genomic selection for hoof lesions in first-parity US Holsteins Journal of dairy science 98 (5), 3502-3507.2015

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USDA Agriculture Counts, Released July 19, 2019, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture. 2019

# 2021 Hoof Health Conference - July 8-10 Have YOU registered yet?

### Nine Things to Ask of New Trimmer

Jolie Estes, MS, CAE - HTA Executive Director

When I was buying my first house, I hired an inspector to crawl through the house and tell me everything that was wrong with it. He missed a few things, but what I learned from it was invaluable. All of those little things he found really impacted my purchase price. We were able to negotiate some repairs and some cash back at closing to cover some of the repairs. I also learned that when I was preparing to sell the house, hiring an inspector would put me in a position of strength. I would know what was wrong and have the opportunity to fix it before any potential sale was in the works and I could have the chance to fix any problems that wouldn't be a big issue to fix. Thinking about my house from the position of the buyer when I was actually the seller really paid off. I knew where the issues were and was able to address most of it before listing the house. That gave me a better asking price and a much easier negotiation.

Cornell University has a great questionnaire for people who need to hire a hoof trimmer.

From a business standpoint, providing this, or a similar question list to potential clients could really be a boon for your business. Help get those potential customers thinking about what is really important. Remember, they do not know hoof trimming the way you do. They, hopefully, understand the dairy business. They are going to be thinking about what they understand they need from their prospective. They may not understand what they need to be thinking about from a cow's perspective or from a trimming relationship.

Cornell University's list of questions included:

- 1 List of references in your area.
- 2 Does the trimmer have liability insurance? Disability insurance?
- 3 How long has the trimmer been trimming?
- 4 Where did the trimmer learn to trim hooves?
- 5 How many cows can the trimmer trim on an average day?
- 6 Would the trimmer require any help from the herd owner?
- 7 What are the trimmer's fees (trim, wrap, block, etc)
- 8 What equipment does the trimmer use (grinder, nipper, type of chute, etc)
- 9 Does the trimmer come back between appointments to take care of a limping cow?

You probably have additional questions you would recommend a potential customer ask as well. We would like to know what those are. Why not drop us a line or give us a call and let us know what you think?



# 2021 HOOF HEALTH CONFERENCE HEADLINERS



#### **Christoph Mülling**

Doctor of Veterinarian Medicine, Professor, University Leipzig

His team pursues an interdisciplinary research approach that combines clinically applied issues with basic science. Three focal points: Integrated biomechanical research in farm animals and horses, pathogenesis of hoof diseases, in vitro research on skin and hoof, teaching and learning research. His team develops multimedia teaching materials for the integrated teaching of clinical anatomy. He has received the VMF Ackerknecht Prize three times for excellent teaching.



#### Jennifer Wilson-Welder

Research Microbiologist, USDA

Spirochete diseases of cattle including Leptospirosis and Digital Dermatitis (Treponema). Studying the interaction of host-pathogen and developing intervention strategies to promote One Health.



#### **Todd Ward**

PAS

Todd is an independent dairy consultant and in the industry for more than 30 years providing advice and education for dairymen on a wide range of topics such as heath, breeding protocols, nutrition, and management of dairy cattle, crop harvesting and storage as it impacts the dairy animal, and design and management of conventional and robotic housing and milking systems through his company Direct Dairy Nutritional Services.

Todd holds a bachelor degree in Agricultural Business and holds certifications from Lely and DeLaval Robotics as "Level 2 Farm Management Support". He is ARPAS certified as a Professional Animal Scientist. He enjoys working with all farm sizes, learning from and sharing his knowledge with the dairy farm community.

# SCHEDULES

#### CANADA

Thursday

5PM - 8PM

Reception

Fileay

8:45AM - 9AM Welcome Remarks

Philip Spence and Doug Johnstone

9AM - 10:00AM Mobile Claw Pressure Sensor

Research

Christoph Mülling

**10AM - 12PM** HTA Business Meeting

12PM - 1PM Lunch

**1PM - 2PM** Motion Analysis of Cattle Study

Christoph Mülling

**2PM - 3PM** Sole Ulcer and White Line

Disease: Treatment and Recovery

Charlotte Kröger

3PM - 3:30PM Break

3:30PM - 5:30PM WCCHTA Business Meeting

**5:30PM - 6PM** Closing Remarks

Philip Spence and Doug Johnstone

**6PM - 9PM** Dinner & Social

Saturday

9AM - 5PM Re-check Day

12PM - 1PM Lunch

USA

Thursday

9AM - 8PM Trade Show Open

9AM - 9:15AM Welcome Remarks

Allen Schlabach and Richard West

9:15AM - 9:30AM Mobile Claw Pressure Sensor

Research

Christoph Mülling

9:30AM - 10:30AM USDA Digital Dermatitis

Research

Jennifer Wilson-Welder

11:30AM - 1PM Lunch

**1PM - 2PM** Todd Ward

2:15PM - 3:15PM Hoof Diseases in the Western

US Elk Herd, Bio Security and

Other Hoof Diseases Jennifer Wilson-Welder

3:15PM - 4PM Vendor Break

**4PM - 5PM** Money in the Cows

Heath Hendrickson

**5PM - 8PM** More than a Reception

Friday

9AM - 8PM Trade Show Open

**9AM - 10AM** Motion Analysis of Cattle Study

Christoph Mülling

10AM - 11AM Todd Ward

**11AM - 12PM** Sole Ulcer and White Line

Disease: Treatment and Recovery

Charlotte Kröger

12PM - 1PM Lunch

**1PM - 3PM** HTA Business Meeting

**3PM - 3:30PM** Vendor Break

3:30PM - 4:30PM Part II

Heath Hendrickson

4:30PM - 5:30PM Dairy Panel

Heath Hendrickson

**5:30PM - 7PM** Vendor Reception

**7PM - 10PM** Dinner and Auction



**9AM - 12PM** Trim Day

12PM - 1PM Lunch





























## 2021 Hoof Health Conference Registration

Register
1. ONLINE: https://hooftrimmers.org
2. Mail: HTA, 5014 FM 1500, Paris, TX 75460
3. Call: 927-715-8231

Name:			
	ST/Prov:		
Postal Code:	Country:		
Phone:	Email:		
Location:	□ US		
Registration Fe	ees:		
	all conference events; vendor registration inc	ludes meals and oth	er social sessions only.
Registration:	Early Bird (on or before 5/31)	Regular (6/1 - 6/30)	Onsite
Active Member	\$275	\$325	\$400
Non-Member	\$325	\$395	\$475
Vendor	\$125	\$175	\$250
Registrant Information:			
Name:	Name on Badge		
	Name on Badge		
	Name on Badge		
	Name on Badge		
Name:	Name on Badge		
Payment:			
_	Funds, enclosed in the amount of \$		
	ly) in the amount of \$		
Card Number:		Exp. Date	
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Billing address, if different from about	ove:		
Ciamatana	Data		

Cancelation Policy: HHC registration cancelations must be received by HTA in writing (email is acceptable) on or before June 10 to receive a 75% refund. Cancellations received after June 10 but before July 1 will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be issued after June 30. All requests for cancelation must be made in writing via email or delivery to HTA, 5014 FM 1500, Paris, TX 75460.



## Help from the HTA& Trimmers Within

Mitch Ackerman

This is my story of when I was severely injured on May 3, 2020 and the help that followed.

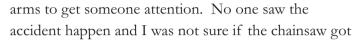
I volunteered to help clear some trees at my brother's house in exchanged for a BBQ supper that night. We as a group started working around 10:30 in the morning and needed to clear out some trees that were growing around an old barn that he wanted to tear down. I was in charge of falling the trees as I had 30 plus years of chain sawing experience under my belt. I felled all the trees, around

except one.

experience under my belt. I felled all the trees, around 60-65 of them. Most of them were less than 5 inches round but had some larger ones also. I had all the trees on the ground and separated from the tree trunk

Around 1pm, I worked on one very large tree was growing out from under the footing of the barn at a 45 degree angle. I notched the underside of the tree and cut above the notched to fall the tree. However, the tree did not separate from the tree trunk but was on the ground. We as a group started to trim all trees that we on the ground and I worked on the above stated tree. I was trimming the large branches on this one tree and cut a pressure branch. The tree spun and did a 180 spin with me being hit in the head from a large branch from the other side of the tree.

I fell to the ground and got to my knees, waving my



me or the tree. I looked over and the chainsaw was still running so I reached over and shut the chainsaw off and put my head down. Some members of the group saw me waving my arms and came over to see if they could help me but I told them that I needed to stay put as I was bleeding from the face area and I wanted the blood to go to the ground and not down my throat. I started to feel my face and knew that the left side was injured badly. I knew that my eye socket was broken along with my cheek area crushed in. I also felt my upper jaw area was loose and broken. I then figured that my lower jaw was broken also.

We decide or someone decide that we needed to call an ambulance to take me to the hospital and that I could not be taken in with a personal vehicle. At the hospital, they did a quick cat scan of my head and two doctors came in and told me it was bad. I ended up having two surgeries to fix my face with both eye sockets being broken, all sinus area being crushed in, the left upper jaw broken, and both sides of my lower jaw broken.

I ended up in the hospital for 5 nights, 6 day with 3 days in the ICU. I had no visitors due to Covid-19. They ended up putting in 6 plates in my face and wired my jaw shut. I went home and went downstairs to be in a darker place and find a nice recliner to live on for the next 3 weeks.

I posted on WOHT and my Facebook page asking for

thoughts and prayers to help me. On the night of my accident, my brother, Nate who is also a hoof trimmer that I trained in 18 years ago started to take calls offering to help me with my hoof trimming schedule. We help each other out as best as we can but with me working for 3 large dairies one day per week per dairy; Nate could not cover all my work. He ended up taking over my business for 3 weeks and worked with 5 other trimmers from 3 different states to help me. He also stated that there was at least another 20 offers of help from different trimmers.

While I was recovering, I knew that I was going to need to protect my face when I came back to work so Aaron LaVoy sent me his personal face shield after texting him my concern.

I ended up going back to work a little over 3 weeks since the accident and while my jaw was still wired shut. I could not stay home any longer and had to do something.

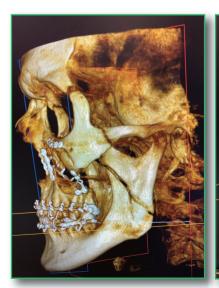
I was healing the best I could but my left upper jaw was not set right to heal properly. I ended up having to put braces on both my lower and upper teeth and will have them on for up to 2 years. I also needed to go to North Memorial Hospital in the St. Paul for reconstructive surgery to fix my upper jaw and it did not heal right. On the day after Thanksgiving, I had my upper jaw get detached from my face and broken into two spots to realign my upper teeth. I ended up at home for 5 more days before I went back to work.

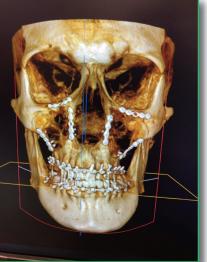
They still are looking at how my braces are lining up my teeth and have a 4<sup>th</sup> operation option. I hope and pray that I will not need this and it appears at this time, this is the case.

I would like to thank all of you who sent me cards, prayed for me, thought of me, came to help me or my brother, sent me equipment or supplies, the HTA for the network of hoof trimmers and vendors who I call friends, and the Trimmer Assist Program (TAP). The gift of money from TAP went towards to help pay for my braces as they were not covered on my medical insurance.

This network of trimmers will always hold a special place in my heart. When I first started hoof trimming my first year, the National Conference was held in MN about 2 hours away from my house. I did not think I needed to go and I did not. After that conference, I think I only missed two in 20 years. I know that if I did not have this network of trimmers I call friends; I would not be where I am today. I work with other trimmers at least monthly and hope that we look at each other as friends and nothing else. I have helped other trimmers in need and now received their help and prayers.

I am heading in the right direction for healing and we will not know of long term effects of my accident as it has affected my memory also. There is also some concern of my jaw working right in the long term. I will continued to enjoy each day and please put God and Family above work as you will never know when it







may be your last day of trimming. I was close but not done yet.

God Bless,
Mitch
Ackerman



A call for help.

# HTA TAKES CARE OF OUR OWN

When one of our members, like Mitch Ackerman, suffers an injury or illness, HTA members are here to help.

Please donate to the Trimmers Assistance Program in support of Mitch and others like him.

Online at hooftrimmers.org/donations
Or mail to:

TAP, 5014 FM 1500, Paris, TX 75460 TAP is designated a 501(c)3 by the US Internal Revenue Service. Contributions in the US are tax deductible.



#### **FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**



Department of Production Animal Health Teaching, Research, & Wellness Building (TRW) 1st Floor, 3280 Hospital Drive NW Calgary, Alberta T2N4Z6 vet.ucalgary.ca

Report from the lameness team in Calgary: Makaela Douglas, Laura Solano and Karin Orsel

In an ongoing attempt to support the dairy industry, Alberta initiated the Lameness Reduction Initiative (LRI). The LRI has multiple components; one of the first was on-farm workshops to demonstrate the risk assessment process underlying the animal welfare component of proAction. Before the workshop started, 69 people were surveyed to evaluate producer knowledge and understanding on lameness in dairy cattle. Part 1 of the survey focused on farming background and the producer's ability to control herd lameness. Approximately 80% of attendees were farm owners and managers, whereas the remainder were farm staff. Although most participants had at least 10 years' experience working on a dairy farm, only 20% of respondents felt "very confident" in their ability to control lameness in their herd (Fig. 1). It was noteworthy that the participants motivation to attend the workshop was "to learn and find strategies to mitigate lameness."

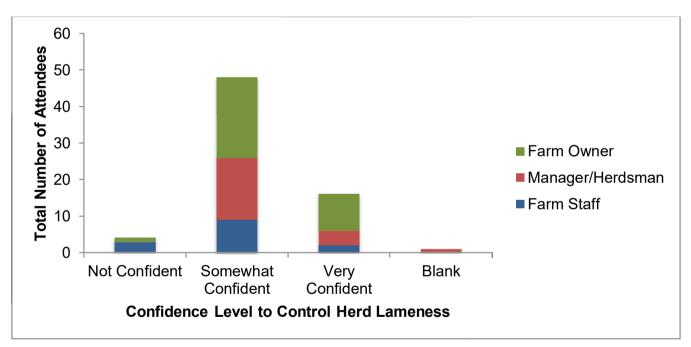


Fig. 1. Confidence level of workshop attendees in their ability to control herd lameness.

Participants were asked to rank the most useful information sources to support them in identifying the best control strategies for lameness in their herds (Fig. 2). Hoof trimmers ranked highest as the most useful information source, followed by veterinarians and fellow producers. Moreover, some producers ranked veterinarians only as the fourth or fifth option, suggesting that dairy practitioners are not necessarily regarding as being able to adequately support producers with regards to lameness control issues.

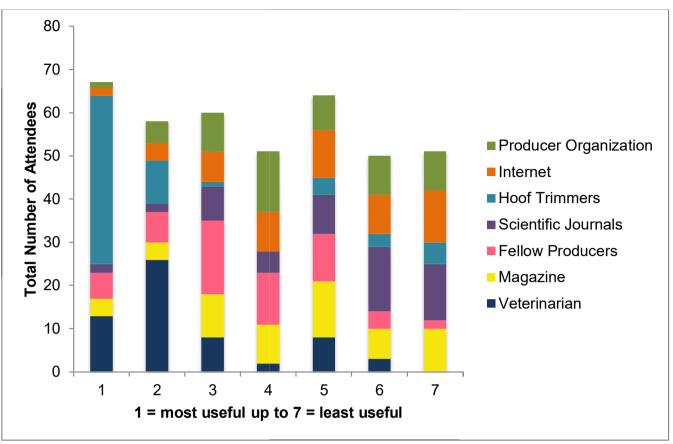


Fig 2. Sources of information in terms of usefulness to address lameness, as ranked by Alberta producers.

In the second part of the survey, attendees were asked to answer 19 true or false questions to test their knowledge on lameness prevention. Most respondents answered a total of 12 questions and left the rest blank, presumably due to lack of time or uncertainty about the question at hand. Of the 12 questions answered, on average 10 were answered correctly. These questions focused on common risk factors associated with lameness. Over 85% of respondents identified correctly that digital dermatitis (DD) was the most common lesion affecting Alberta dairy cattle and that hygiene was important in the occurrence of this hoof lesion. Producers also identified the importance of locomotion scoring cattle to identify those that are lame. Other risk factors on farm such as hard surfaces and maintaining a healthy body condition were correctly identified by 80% of respondents. Some misconceptions about causes and risk factors for lameness also surfaced, for example the ability to identify all DD affected cattle through signs of pain. Also, the role of hoof trimming was overestimated as being able to prevent DD in fresh cows. Many producers did not understand that presence of DD lesions can increase the risk of cattle becoming lame. This highlights the fact that lameness is a complex health issue and dairy producers sometimes struggle to understand knowledge quiding prevention and control measures.

The LRI has used the information of this survey to assist in some priorities for future steps and to guide communication strategies. Although the industry would prefer 10% as an acceptable average on a lameness score of 3 or more, on average we are still dealing with a 20% lameness score. Going forward, education, effective communication and support for both veterinarians and hoof trimmers supporting their dairy clients to prevent and control lameness will be important. Furthermore, that many producers are likely to speak to hoof trimmers rather than dairy veterinarians for lameness advice suggests that a larger effort may be needed from veterinarians to influence or inform their clients.

The Calgary lameness team will continue its endeavor combating lameness in cattle and contribute to the LRI initiative. We are hopeful that we will be able to expand to multiple provinces. We will keep you posted!

# Area Representative News

In gratitude, the HTA wishes to thank Jake Konstabel for his many years serving as HTA Eastern Area Representative. We appreciate all that you have done and wish you and your family all the very best.

**New appointment:** The HTA is excited to announce the newly appointed Eastern Area Representative, Zane Hendrickson. Congratulations Zane, we look forward to working with you.

Area representatives have a pivotal role in our Association.

Our area reps' objectives are to assist the Board with special projects and tasks requiring member input, disseminate information to members, report members' concerns and ideas to the Board, and enhance member participation and communication in the Association.

In addition, they perform these vital functions:

 Organize regional conferences and workshops with the support of the Executive Director

- Serve as a local contact for members to ask questions, make comments or lodge complaints.
- Write a column in each newsletter. A topic may or may not be pre-assigned and should reflect regional interests. (The HTA greatly appreciates newsletter articles from ALL on hoof healthrelated topics).
- Serve as regional spokesperson amongst members in the region via phone or at regional events.
- Assist with the membership renewal/membership growth campaign annually.
- Communication and understanding is key to maintaining any relationship.

We can all play our part in better communication. I'm sure that your reps would be happy to hear from you as you would be to hear from them.





# Disinfection of Hoof Trimming Equipment is clean, clean enough?

Frank van der Meer, University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Most would agree that we want to avoid transferring pathogens from one place to another, as farmers won't be happy if a visitor to the farm spreads microorganisms which may make their animals sick. However, modern hoof trimming chutes are very complex pieces of equipment, difficult to properly clean and to disinfect.

High-pressure cleaning, especially hot water or steam and a good brush, is a very good start. However, there are really two processes, cleaning, followed by disinfection. One is incomplete without the other and they need to be done in a specific order. As it is virtually impossible to reliably disinfect a dirty piece of equipment, it must first be cleaned and then it can be disinfected. Most disinfecting products are quickly inactivated once they come in contact with organic matter or they fail to reach all the small corners and parts of the machinery, emphasizing why cleaning is so important. It is also important to remember that cleaning and disinfection is not only for the chute, but also for the tools and for the people, including the hoof trimmer and helpers (think boots and coveralls)!

Although 100% decontamination is probably not feasible, it is possible to minimize the risk, with thorough cleaning and disinfection. After that, 'time to the next use' and exposure to the elements (dryness, sun, heat) can also help to kill pathogens. However, during winter in Canada (and other regions where cold climate conditions occur), cold conditions and limited sunshine can promote the survival of many microorganisms.

When possible, protect difficult to clean areas with a removable (plastic) layer that you can dispose on farm when the work is done. For example, buttons, displays or perhaps some moving parts can be protected by this method, saving time on cleaning and disinfection.

Soap and detergents are not disinfectants, but can aid in cleaning, making it easier to remove grease and dirt. By far the best disinfectant is bleach (sodium hypochlorite). However, it needs a clean surface to work, as it is rapidly deactivated by organic matter. Furthermore, bleach is caustic and corrosive and may cause rust or other damage to expensive equipment.

What are the practical alternatives? There are several disinfectants that may work well on equipment and farm environments. For example, quaternary ammonium compounds are relatively nontoxic to people and generally do

not harm equipment, although they usually need to be rinsed off, as they leave residues. Glutaraldehyde-based disinfectants are more toxic to people, but more potent against microorganisms that you want to kill, even if there is a thin layer of fecal matter. Some products marketed as combination of these two, which improve safety and efficacy. Another combination product is Virkon S, consisting of oxidizing agents, acid and organic salts; it generally works well, as the effectiveness of the individual components is enhanced through the combination. Regardless of what is used, a very important consideration is 'contact time', which is how long you give the disinfectant to work. It is important to read the directions and determine how long the product should be left in place. There is no single approach or solution that works well under all circumstances. Therefore, it is good to weigh the pros and cons of every product. Furthermore, it is really important to consider safety for the workers, as they will be exposed to these products on a daily basis! Feel free to contact me for detailed discussions about cleaning/disinfection procedures and approaches that may work for your specific circumstances.

Frank.vandermeer@ucalgary.ca



Biosecurity is a shared responsibility

# I'RIMMER PREI



Limit the number of farms visited in day. If possible, visit only one.



Carry clean clothes and boots which have been sanitized after each farm visit.



before entering the barn or any other animal Use a disinfectant footbath to clean boots



4

Bring disinfected tools and, if posible, used only on that specific farm.



between each farm and at the end of each day. Clean then disinfect chute, truck and gates

20 dals



9

Do not bring any unnecessary personnel to the farm.

# FARMER STEPS



10 dals

STEP 02

SIEP 03

STEP 04

MANAGEMEN

SLEP 05

STEP 06

STEP 08

