

MANAGING YOUR DAIRY HERD TO REDUCE LAMENESS

MONITOR

IDENTIFY LAME COWS PROMPTLY. THEN LIFT THE FOOT TO DIAGNOSE THE LIKELY CAUSE

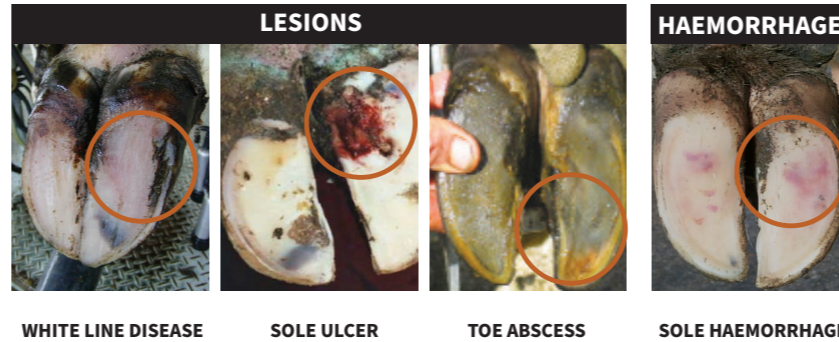
View lameness scoring video and use the chart - see QR code below



LAMENESS DUE TO INFLAMMATORY CHANGES

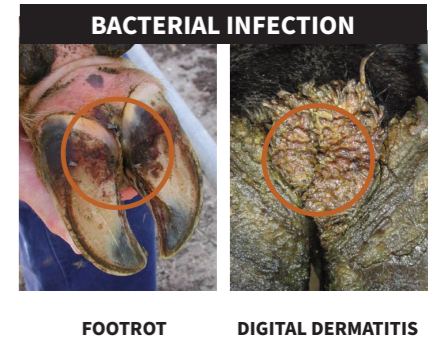
Most lameness in NZ dairy cows is due to inflammation and damage to the soft tissue (corium)

The injuries slowly grow down, and are visible as lesions months later



LAMENESS DUE TO BACTERIAL INFECTION

Less often lameness is caused by bacterial infection
Treatment may include antibiotics



MANAGE

TREAT INFLAMMATION. TRIM HOOF TO GET WEIGHT OFF INJURED CLAW. APPLY HOOF BLOCK

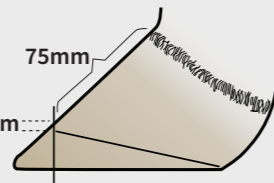


Treat with 3 days of KetoMax to reduce pain and inflammation

KetoMax 15%

1

Make the inner claw 75mm long. Leave 7mm thickness at the tip. Spare the heel



2

Trim the outer claw to the same length and trim the weight bearing surface to the same level so the claws are even

3

Make a slope / scallop out the insides of the soles



4

If one claw is damaged, trim this sole towards the heel so more weight is transferred to the sound claw

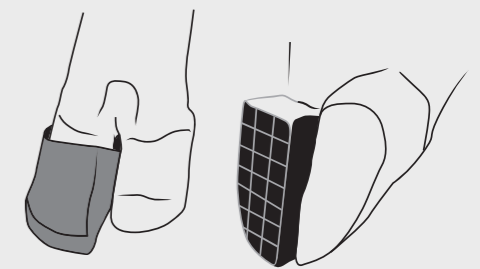
5

Remove loose horn and trim down hard ridges.

Sound claw Damaged claw



Apply hoof block to the sound claw to get weight off the damaged claw



FUNCTIONAL HOOF TRIMMING

CURATIVE HOOF TRIMMING

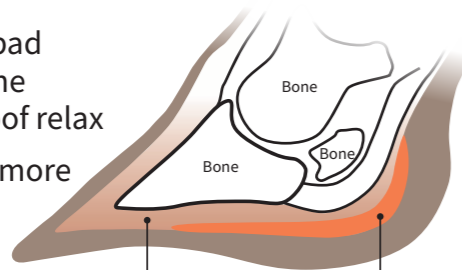
MINIMISE

REDUCE PRESSURE ON COWS ESPECIALLY DURING EARLY LACTATION

Calving effect

Around calving the fat pad becomes thinner and the ligaments inside the hoof relax

This makes the corium more susceptible to damage



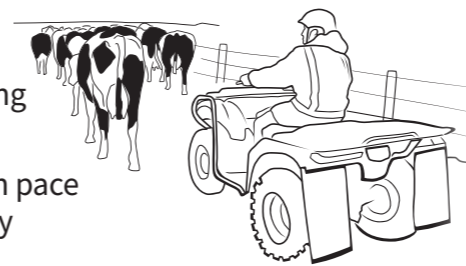
The corium is the sensitive inner part that grows new hoof at 5mm per month

Fat pad

Calving effect + pressure on cows = higher risk of lameness

Reduce pressure on cows

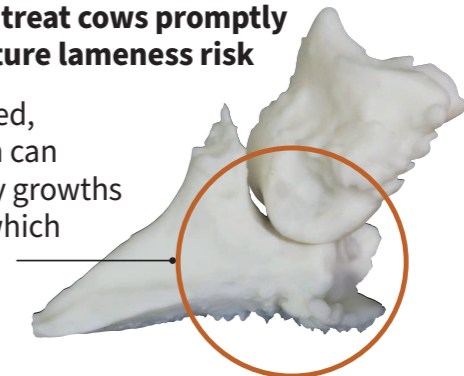
- Minimise time on concrete - especially soon after calving
- Don't 'push' cows
 - Let cows walk at their own pace
 - Use backing gate sparingly
- Maintain races and entrances
 - Drain muddy areas



DON'T 'PUSH' COWS

Identify and treat cows promptly to reduce future lameness risk

If left untreated, inflammation can result in bony growths in the hoof, which increases risk of future lameness



agrihealth.co.nz/products/lameness-in-cattle



dairynz.co.nz/animal/cow-health/lameness/identifying-lame-cows/



Evidence based vet medicines

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