

# Hoof Health Care SOP

**Work with your veterinarian to develop a program to prevent, quickly identify, treat and control lameness.**

Review the plan and associated protocols annually with your veterinarian and the employee(s) responsible for lameness evaluation.

**Objective:** To develop and practice a hoof health program that minimizes the incidence of lameness, quickly identifies cows in need of treatment or culling and establishes a record keeping system that allows for the effective management of hoof health on the farm.

**Principle:** Lameness is a painful condition that is bad for the health and welfare of the cow and for the business. Lameness should be prevented, treated quickly when they are found and receive timely follow-up.

Farm:			
<b>GOALS:</b> 1. Moderate Lameness: ≤15% in the lactating herd 2. Severe Lameness: ≤1 % in the lactating herd 3. Severely lame cows should be in a separate pen, close to the parlor, evaluated daily and have a record of an established treatment plan			
Prevention and Control Practices			Person(s) Responsible
<u><a href="#">Routine Hoof Trimming</a></u>  Cows trimmed in the last 4 months should not be trimmed to avoid over trimming.	Heifers:	Prior to calving <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Lactating Cows:	@ 150 DIM <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Prior to Dry Off <input type="checkbox"/>	
<u><a href="#">Regular Lameness &amp; Lesion Scoring</a></u>  Persons responsible should be trained on how to identify lameness.	Heifers:	Every      weeks	
	Dry & Lactating Cows:	Every      weeks	
<b>Record Keeping &amp; Follow-Up</b>	All claw lesions will be recorded and reviewed with the veterinarian every      weeks		
	All cows treated for lameness will be re-evaluated in 30 days.  *When lameness has become severe and is not responsive, with no further treatment options the cow should be euthanized.		
	Cows that have been treated 3 times or are still lame after 90 days will be evaluated for culling (severely lame cows are not fit for transport and should be euthanized).		

Veterinarian of Record Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Prevention and Control Practices		Person(s) Responsible:
<b>Cow Comfort:</b>	Deeply Bedded Stalls <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Pasture or Soft, Dirt Pen Access <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Stall Standing Index (SSI) – measured 2 hrs. before milking every _____ weeks. <b>Goal &lt;20%</b> <input type="checkbox"/> If >20% locomotion scoring of the herd should be done.	
	Milking Time - <b>Goal: &lt; 1 hr</b> spent away from the pen for each milking <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Heat Stress Abatement:	
	Fans over STALLS <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Sprinklers/Soakers/Fans at feed bunks <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Walking Surfaces:</b>	Sufficient Grooving to avoid slips & falls, but avoid excessive wear <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Manure removed _____ times/day <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Rubber on walk ways & Holding Areas <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Nutrition / Feeding Practices:</b>	Avoid Overcrowding – Target: 24-34" bunk space, 1 stall/cow <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Fresh feed, ad lib, at least 2X daily <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Monitor feed refusals and feed sorting every weeks	
	Ration balanced for trace minerals <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Leg Hygiene Scoring</b> Goal: < 25% Moderate to very dirty.	Every _____ weeks. <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Foot Bathing</b> Lactating Cows Schedule determined by leg hygiene score.	Early Lactation: _____ Days /Week <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Late Lactation: _____ Days /Week <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Close-Up Cows – Once a week <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Breeding Age Heifers – based on evaluation every weeks <input type="checkbox"/>	

Veterinarian of Record Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Lame Cow Monitoring & Treatment Strategy

The goal is to identify lame cows for treatment as quickly as possible, ideally EVERY DAY, and monitor them for recovery.

Regular monitoring should minimize the number of cows that become severely lame and ensure that severely lame cows are not sent to market/slaughter.

Identification of Lameness	Schedule & Action	Person(s) Responsible
Heifers		
Dry Cows		
Lactating Cows		
Treatment of Lameness	Schedule & Action (ideally within 24 hrs)	
Heifers		
Dry Cows		
Lactating Cows		
Follow up evaluation	Schedule & Action (ideally 30 days)	
Heifers		
Dry Cows		
Lactating Cows		
<i><u>If Not Better @ 30 days</u></i>		
<i><u>If not Better in at most 90 days: ACTION</u></i>		
If Moderately Lame	Cull	
If Severely Lame	Humanely Euthanize	

Veterinarian of Record Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_