



HOOF TRIMMING

- Hoof Care is an important aspect of animal management.
- Hoof health can affect an animals' performance, disease resistance and welfare
- Hooves should be regularly checked for disease and excess growth.
- Animals with excess or abnormal hoof growth and chronic hoof disease should be culled



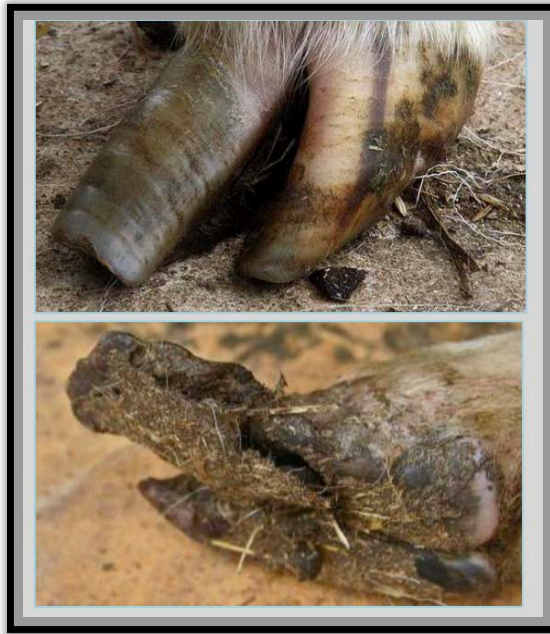
References:

University of Maryland

Extension Small Ruminant Program



IMPORTANCE OF HOOF TRIMMING



- To prevent lameness
- To allow air to reach the hoof to eliminate the bacteria that can cause infection
- To create a flat sole surface, removing trapped mud and feces and reducing the possibility of infection
- To promote proper hoof growth in young animals





FREQUENCY OF HOOF TRIMMING

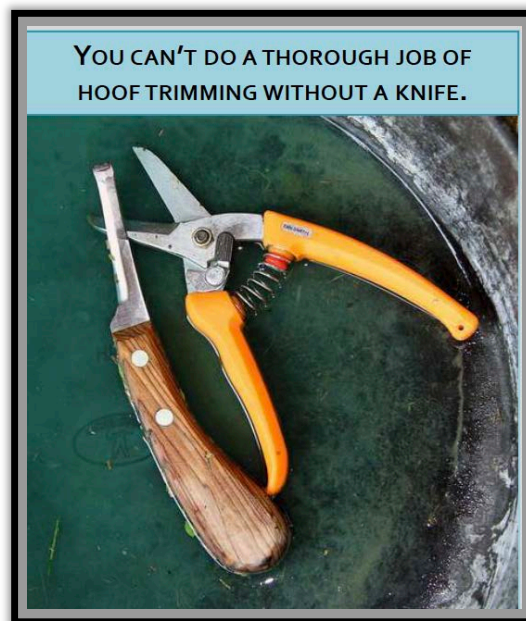
At least annually: varies from monthly to as needed to never

FACTORS AFFECTING THE NEED FOR HOOF TRIMMING

- **Genetics: Individual, Breed, Color of hoof, Structure/ shape of hoof**
- **Environment: Soil moisture and terrain, Season and rainfall, Housing, Diet**

PROPER EQUIPMENT FOR HOOF TRIMMING

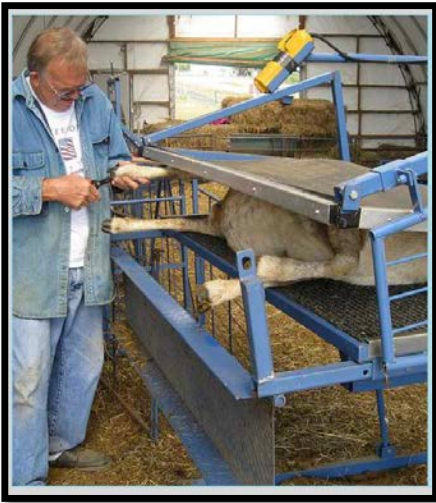
1. **Hoof Shears (trimmers)**
2. **Hoof knife**
3. **Brush (for cleaning hoof)**
4. **Tight fitting (nitrile) gloves both for safety and comfort**





PROPER RESTRAINT FOR HOOF TRIMMING

- Tip animal onto its rump
- Deck chair
- Tilt table or squeeze



PROPER TIMING OF HOOF TRIMMING

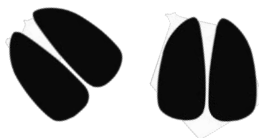
- Not during late gestation
- In conjunction with other management tasks (e.g. shearing)
- 2-3 weeks before a show
- When hooves are soft





Proper hoof trimming

- Clean hoof
- Trim excess growth
 - Trim to pad (sole)
 - Trim axial surface
 - Don't cut tip
[entry for infection]
- Try not to draw blood.
[entry for infection]
- Disinfect tools
between animals.





DISEASES AFFECTING THE HOOVES

BACTERIAL AND VIRAL

BACTERIAL

- Foot scald
- Foot Abscess
- Footrot

VIRAL

- Laminitis
- Bluetongue
- Sore mouth
- Foot-and-mouth-disease





Foot scald

(also called interdigital dermatitis, benign footrot, or strip)

SKIN BETWEEN TOES IS
RAW AND INFLAMED.



NOT CONTAGIOUS

- An inflammation and redness between the toes (claws) of the hoof.
- No (or minimal) involvement of the hoof.
- Precursor to footrot and foot abscess.
- Outbreaks occur during periods of wet weather.



Foot abscess

HEEL OR TOE



COMMON BACTERIA

- Occur when *Actinomyces* spp. bacteria invade tissue already weakened by an interdigital infection.
- Causes lameness, pain, swelling, and heat.
- Affects mostly mature and heavy animals.
- Usually only one hoof or digit is affected.





Footrot

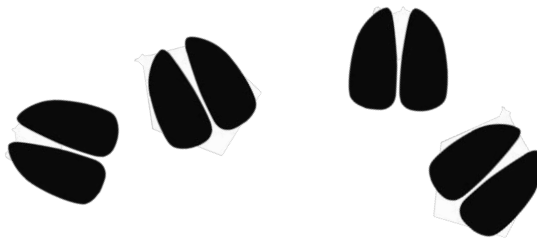
(also referred to as virulent, contagious, or classic footrot)

UNDERMINING OF HOOF



HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS

- Involves a separation of the horny portions of the hoof from the underlying sensitive areas.
- Foul odor.
- Both claws are usually affected.
- More than one hoof may be involved.





Sources of footrot

D. nodosus -- the disease-causing bacteria

Primary

- In the hooves of newly acquired animals.

Secondary

- On contaminated equipment.
- In contaminated bedding at sales, fairs, and during transport.
- In the hooves of goats and cattle.
- On pasture and in barn lots.
- On footwear.
- From service personnel



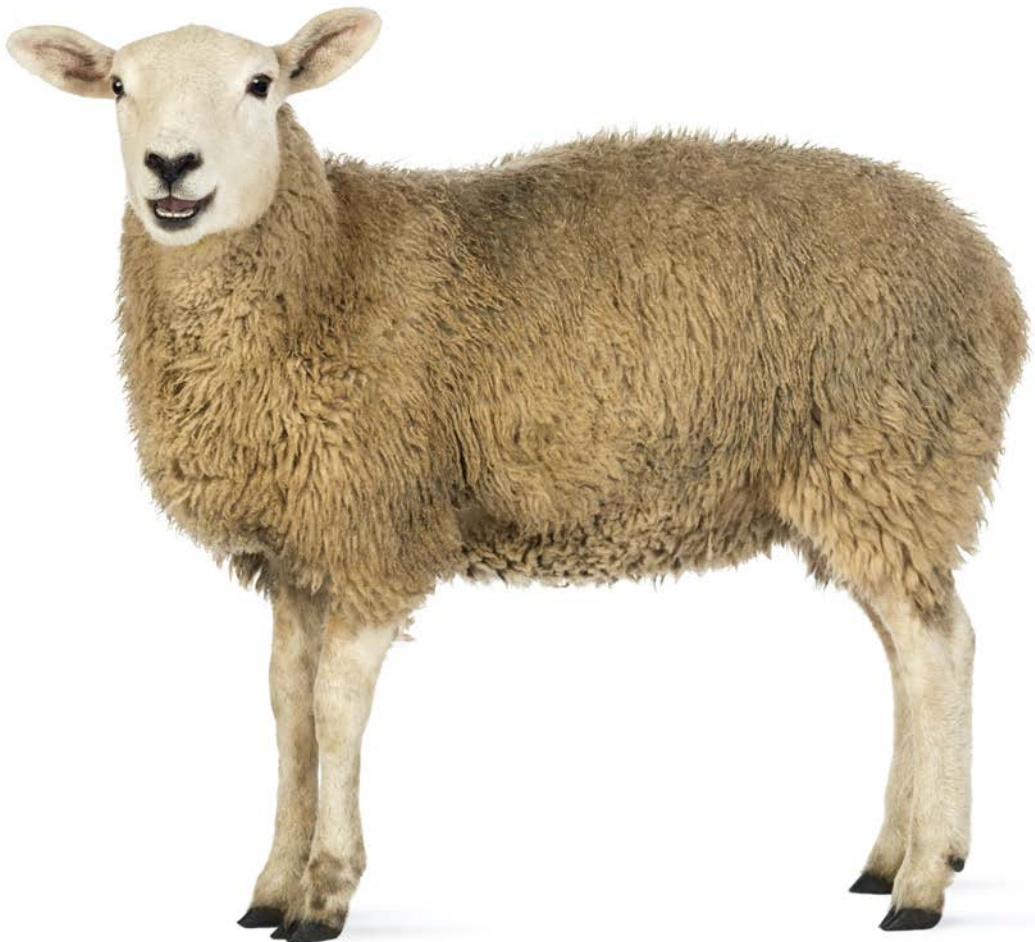
FOOTROT USUALLY "WALKS ON" TO A FARM IN THE HOOVES OF AN INFECTED ANIMAL OR CHRONIC CARRIER.





HOW DO YOU KEEP FOOTROT OFF YOUR FARM?

- Have a written biosecurity plan and follow it
- Do not buy animals from flocks with a history of foot diseases or noticeable lameness
- All newly acquired animals should be suspected of having footrot and be quarantined for a minimum of 3 weeks





TREATMENT OPTIONS

ANTIBIOTICS INJECTIONS

- Penicillin
- Tetracyclines

ANTIBIOTIC SRAYS

TOPICAL TREATMENT WITH KOPPERTOX OR 7% IODINE

DRY CHEMICALS – ZINC SULFATE AND LIME

VACCINATION (PREVENT AND TREAT)

ZINC SUPPLEMENTATION

GENETIC SELECTION

