



Healthy Hoof is here...

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Reducing lameness one step at a time...

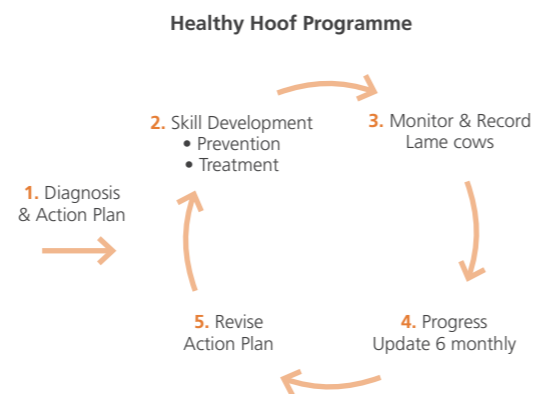
Lameness is caused by the interaction of many factors and as a result requires sustained effort to improve. There is no one quick fix!

The Healthy Hoof Programme is a simple, stepwise approach to managing lameness on dairy farms caused by physical factors. It consists of five key steps that each farm takes with the support of a trained programme provider.

The Healthy Hoof Programme is based on the work of New Zealand's own world renowned lameness specialist, Neil Chesterton. It has been developed in consultation with vets as well as local and international lameness experts. Forty farms nationwide have piloted Healthy Hoof during the last two seasons and farmer feedback has been instrumental in shaping the final programme.

The purpose of the programme is to help farmers reduce lame cows through improved management of cows and people. Despite the fact that many dairy farmers have an understanding of the physical factors that cause lameness, poor cow flow and stockmanship are still not being addressed on farms.

Farmers piloting Healthy Hoof tell us that its benefits reach further than cost savings from reduced lameness. They also valued improved staff performance due to the education and training provided with the programme, and they told us that the clear actions they agreed in conjunction with the trained specialist gave them more confidence to act and address their lameness problem. Farmers also appreciated the time savings and value in having a trained provider (eg. a vet or consultant who has attended a specialist Healthy Hoof Provider Workshop) assist them with the important steps such as the Diagnosis and Action Plan and Skill Development.



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The main benefits of the Healthy Hoof Programme are realised through the diagnostic visit and training provided by the provider. Farmers will be required to pay for the providers time in supporting them through Healthy Hoof, but the learning resources are supplied free of charge to all New Zealand dairy farmers.

What do you get with the Healthy Hoof Programme?

1. A trained provider conducts a detailed observation and diagnosis of lameness causing factors on your farm. Together you create an action plan to address the big issues
2. All people working on farm are trained in prevention and treatment of lameness by the provider
3. Tools are available to assist with recording of every lame cow
4. Farmers provide lame cow data and get feedback about their progress

You also receive a package of learning resources designed to assist with each stage of the Healthy Hoof Programme

What are the learning resources?

- Healthy Hoof programme manual
- Healthy Hoof field guide
- Healthy Hoof recording white board
- Zinpro locomotion scoring poster
- Minimising lameness poster
- Dairy shed rules and contract poster

What farmers have told us....

"The programme has increased staff awareness and knowledge of lame cow management, which is key to reducing lame cows."

"The farm Diagnosis and Action Plan was good as a starting point for making changes on the farm, and gave us a lot of things to think about."

"It is good that an outside expert with fresh authority trains the staff. Staff are more responsive and it saved us time."

"The programme has helped to focus myself and my employees. We want healthy high producing cows, not lame cows."

"The Healthy Hoof recording system makes what can be a bad job, very easy."

"This is the only programme available that deals with lameness so thoroughly and effectively."

"The programme is a complete approach. It helped us to focus on the problem, and identify key factors for improvement."

"We designed our new shed based on the recommendations from this programme."

To learn more about the Healthy Hoof Programme make sure you come along to one of the specialist groups taking place during April 2008. You can hear what the farmers who piloted Healthy Hoof have found and take the opportunity to ask your own questions. The location and dates for these groups can be found at www.dairynz.co.nz/healthyhoof, or phone 0800 4 DairyNZ. All those who attend these days will receive a lameness field guide – the resource most valued by our pilot farmers.

If you want to register now for the 08/09 season then either email healthyhoof@dairynz.co.nz or phone 0800 4 DairyNZ. You will then receive confirmation of your registration, a list from which to choose a Healthy Hoof Provider and information to help get you started.

