

The importance of foot baths

A cow that is lame, often does not produce enough milk. This is because the cow struggles to walk, cannot reach the feeding trough or is in pain from an infected hoof. Of course this is very bad for the owner, who will lose money when he cannot sell milk. This may even affect his household, who may depend on the milk for food.

Lameness in cows can cost a lot of money to treat. Yet it can be prevented if cows receive a balanced diet, if hooves are trimmed regularly, if there is proper hygiene in the milking parlour, and if foot baths are installed.

Foot baths are often used by dairy farmers to reduce hoof diseases, especially if there are a lot of cows in the herd. A foot bath can harden the cow's claw horn and can disinfect it, depending on the type of chemical used in the foot bath.

Foot baths are great for treating diseases such as dermatitis or foot rot. However, it is very important to manage a foot bath properly, otherwise it will serve no purpose on your farm. Here are some important things to remember about foot baths:

1. Place the foot bath in an area where the herd often has to walk, such as at the dairy's exit
2. A foot bath should be 2,5 to 3 metres long and must be about 1 metre wide. It should be approximately 15 cm deep so that the water solution will cover the animals' feet properly when they step into the bath
3. Put the foot bath on a level surface
4. You can put down two foot baths. The first can contain clean water which will clear most of the dirt and manure from the animals' feet.
5. The second foot bath can contain the water with the chemicals. Cows' feet should be clean when they step into the second foot bath, as manure can deactivate the chemicals in the bath, making it useless for protection against diseases
6. Foot bath solution (water and chemical mixture) must be changed after every 150 to 200 cows. Wash and rinse the foot bath properly before you fill it with fresh solution
7. Once the cows have passed through the foot bath, they should walk onto a dry area
8. Foot baths should be used three to four times a week to be truly effective
9. If you are not sure which solution to use, ask your veterinarian for assistance. Copper sulphate is often used and must be dissolved in hot water. You can add some vinegar to the water if the copper sulphate does not dissolve well in the hot water.

At first it may seem expensive to install foot baths and to buy the solution. But you have to remember that it is very expensive to treat animals for hoof diseases. It can cost you up to R2 400 to treat a single lame cow! This is much more expensive than taking the right care from the start.

As the old saying goes: Prevention is better than cure. Care for your cattle's feet today and save a lot of money tomorrow. **UMI**

Foot baths

Voetbaddens / Obhavwana bokuwasha izinyawo / Izihlambi manqina / Sehlatswa maoto

- Use a foot bath to disinfect hooves and prevent hoof diseases.
- Gebruik 'n voetbad om hoefsiektes te voorkom en hoewe te ontsmet.
- Sebenzisa ubhavwana wokuwasha izinyawo ukuvikela nokubulala amagciwane angadala izifo zezinselo.
- Sebenzisa izihlambi manqina ukuthintela nokubulala iintsholongwane zezifo zeempuphu.
- Sebedisa sehlatswa maoto ho qoba le ho tshwaetsolla bolwetse ba tlhako.



Prevent lameness and foot rot

- Feed a balanced diet.
- Trim hooves regularly.
- Use a foot bath.
- Clean the milking parlour regularly.

Voorkom verlamming en vrotpootjie

- Verskaf 'n gebalanseerde dieet.
- Knip die hoewe gereeld.
- Gebruik 'n voetbad.
- Maak die melkstal gereeld skoon.

Vikela ukukhubazeka nokubola kwezinyawo

- Nika amankonyane ukudla okunomsoco odingekile.
- Gunda izinselo njalo.
- Sebenzisa ubhavwana wokugezela.
- Hlanza indawo yokusengela njalo.

Thintela ubuqhwalwa nokubola kwenqina

- Tyisa ukutya okunesondlo.
- Zichebe rhoqo iimpuphu.
- Sebenzisa isihlambi manqina.
- Yicoce rhoqo indawo yokusengela.

Qoba ho qhiletsa le ho bola ha maoto

- Di fepe dijo tse nang le phepo.
- Qotha ditlhako kgafetsa.
- Sebedisa sehlatswa maoto.
- Hlwekisa sebaka seo ho hamelwang ho sona kgafetsa.



● **Application: Use 2 foot baths**

1. First foot bath: water to clean the cows' feet.
2. Second foot bath: disinfectant.

Place the foot bath on a level surface at the dairy's exit. The water should cover the cows' feet. Clean and refill the foot baths with water and disinfectant after every 150 to 200 cows.



● **Gebruiksaanwysings: Gebruik 2 voetbaddens**

1. Eerste voetbad: Water om die beeste se hoewe mee skoon te maak.
2. Tweede voetbad: Ontsmettingsmiddel.

Plaas die voetbad op gelyke grond by die melkery se uitgang. Die water behoort die koeie se hoewe te bedek. Was en hervul die voetbaddens na elke 150 tot 200 koeie met water en ontsmettingsmiddel.

● **Indlela: sebenzisa obhawwana ababili**

1. ubhawwana wokuqala: amanzi okuhlana izinyawo zenkomo
2. ubhawwana wesibili: isibulali magciwane

Beka ubhawwana endaweni elinganayo ekuphumeleni kwedele. Amanzi kumele amboze izinyawo zenkomo. Hlanza futhi ugcalalise ubhawwana ngamanzi nesibulali magciwane emva kwezinkomo eziyikhulu namashumi amahlanu kuya kwezingamakhulu amabili.

● **Ukuyisebenzisa: Sebenzisa izihlambi manqina ezi-2**

1. Isihlambi manqina sokuqala: amanzi okucoca amanqina enkomo.
2. Isihlambi manqina sesibini: bulala iintsholongwane.

Beka isihlambi manqina kumgangatho omcaba kwindawo yokuphuma ederi. Amanzi kufuneka ogqume inqina lenkomo. Coca uphinde uzigcalalise izihlambi manqina ngamanzi qho emva kweenkomo ezili-150 ukuya kwezingama-200.

● **Tshebediso: Shebedisa dihlatwa maoto tse 2**

1. Sehlatwa maoto sa pele: metsi bakeng sa ho hlwekisa maoto a kgomo.
2. Sehlatwa maoto sa bobedi: sebolaya-kokwanahloko.

Beha sehlatwa maoto tulong lebaneng le monyako wa lesaka. Metsi a lokela ho kwahela maoto a kgomo. Hlwekisa le ho tlatsa dihlatwa maoto ka metsi le sebolaya-kokwanahloko kamora dikgomo tse ding le tse ding tse 150 ho isa ho tse 200. 

