

Management of Lameness

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PERSPECTIVE

- A lot of different ways to do things
- Doing nothing is what is really wrong
- Expecting improvement without changing anything is not logical

- I don't live in a perfect world, I live in reality
- NO PERFECT WAY
 - A BETTER WAY

- What is the new normal?
- Value of longevity vs production

- Focus on Prevention
- Treat earlier
- More often foot trimming

Giving credit where credit is due

- Cramer Mobile Bovine Veterinary Services
– Bovine foot care, research and consulting



Thousand Islands Veterinary Services
Lameness Workshop



Foot Dipping

- Treat existing & **PREVENT** new lesions
 - Whole herd
 - Footbaths
 - Spraying of feet



Pasture Vacations

- How?
- Again, affect on production?

Infectious Causes

- Foot Rot (Pasture Foot-rot, Interdigital Pododermatitis)
 - Bilateral swelling above the claws
 - quick onset; non-weight bearing, usually febrile
 - characteristic odor between toes
 - Bacteria + Environmental
 - high levels of moisture
 - gravel
 - stubble fields -piercing skin in cleft
 - *Fusobacterium necrophorum*
 - *Bacteroides melaninogenicus*
 - Treatment
 - penicillin, tetracycline
 - ceftiofur (Excenel)
 - topical Kopper Tox



Infectious Causes (cont'd)

- Stable Foot Rot (slurry heels, Heel cracks, Interdigital Dermatitis)
 - Inflammation/irritation of the skin of heel bulb
 - cracks/deep fissures
 - exposure to moisture softens sole
 - found everywhere
 - heels over gutter, tread from side to side
 - Anaerobic infection
 - *Dichelobacter nodosus*
 - formerly *Bacteroides nodosus*
 - Treatment
 - trimming and debriding
 - may block the other claw
 - use systemic Abx



Infectious Causes (cont'd)

- Digital Dermatitis (Hairy Heel Warts, Strawberry foot-rot)
 - Disease Spread worldwide
 - Organism “unknown”
 - Rapid rise in prevalence
 - US 43.5% herds 1997
 - 3/4 had first case after 93
 - California
 - 31% 1991
 - 89% 1994
 - PEI 23% in 1997
 - initial stage “strawberry” acute onset - painful
 - becomes low grade - chronic
 - raised projections up to 10-15mm (Hairy wart stage)



Sole ulcer

- Necrosis of the quick - failure to produce new sole
- almost always under the flexor process of P3
- sole is thinnest there more prone to ischemia
- Death of the quick results
- no new sole manufactured
- sole grows out around the defect a cavity or ulcer is formed
- Extremely painful



Treating Lambe Cows

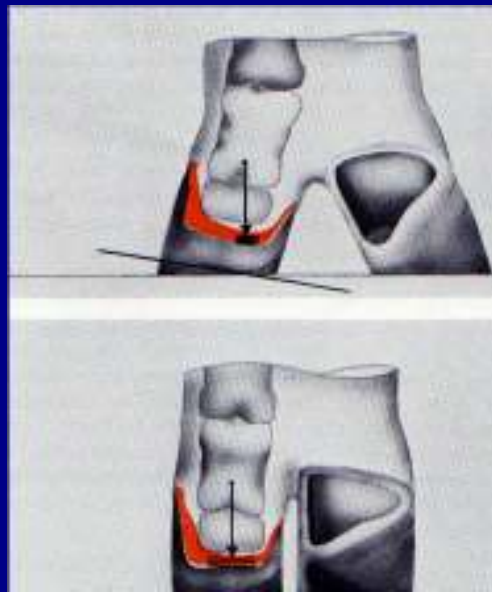
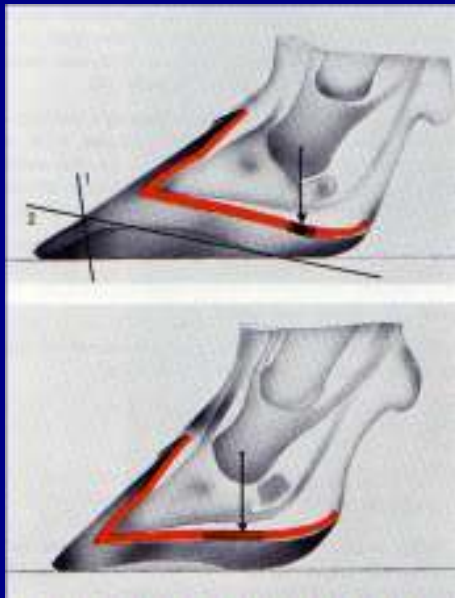
- Proper TREATMENT
 - **IM Antibiotics only for Footrot !!!!!**
- Hoof horn lesions
 - Goal: Take weight off
 - **BLOCK** Ulcers, Abscess
 - Wrap for hemostasis.
 - Pain medications?
- Digital Dermatitis
 - Tetracycline Paste



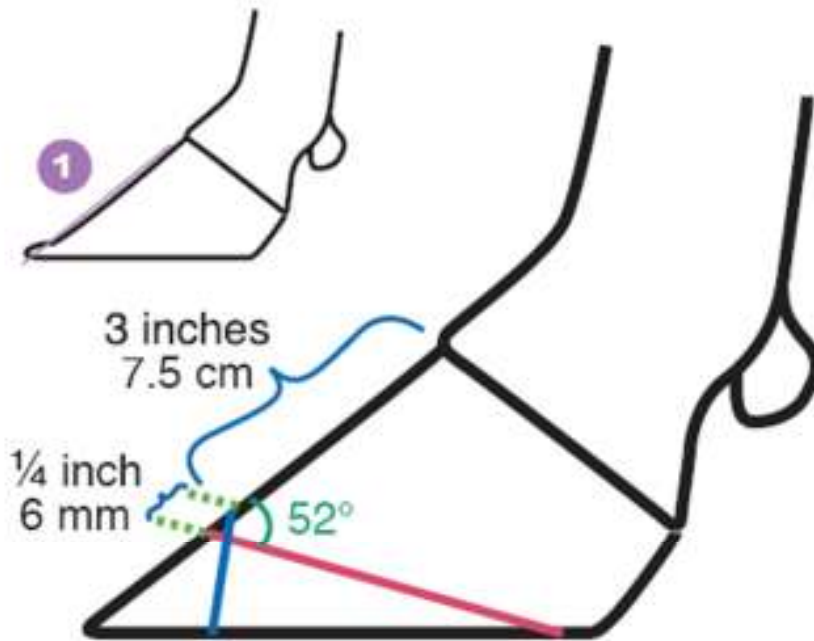
Hoof Trimming

- Goals

- Prevent lameness = Balanced weight bearing
- Treat lameness = Take weight off



Step 1 Medial Claw Toe Length & Sole



- 1 Remove buckle, if present
- 2 Measure, cut toe length 3 in or 7.5 cm ←



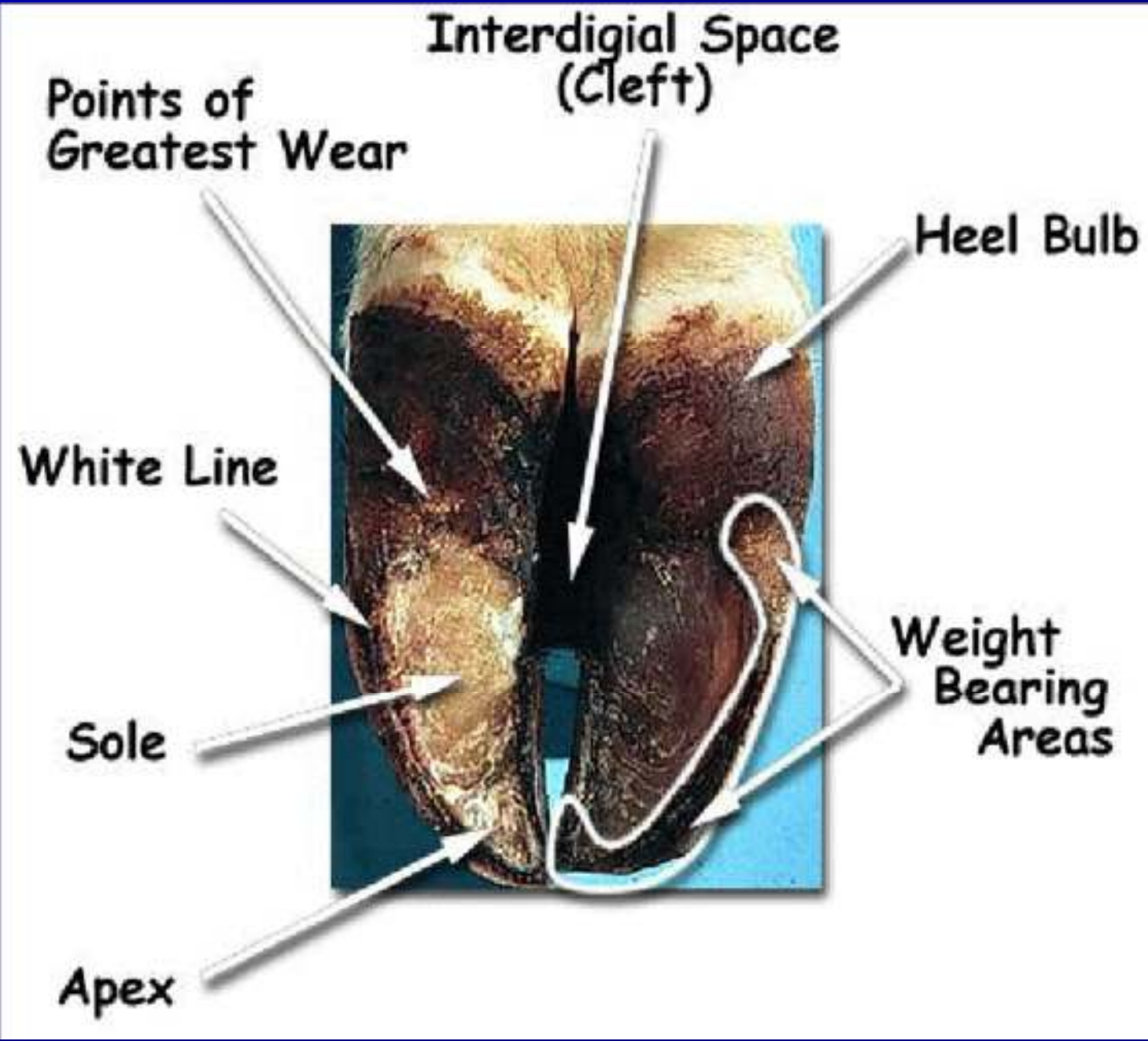
- 3 Trim sole flat, perpendicular to shinbone
- 4 Leave 1/4 in or 6 mm sole at toe
- 5 Spare heel to achieve 52 degrees

Minimum add 3 mm or 1/8 in
for every 75 kg or 150 lbs
over 750 or 1600 lbs

Weight Bearing

- Evaluating a Hoof Trim





Take Home Messages

- Reduce Incidence / duration
 - Early ID and Tx
- Focus on main Risk Factors for prevention
- We know enough to reduce lameness
 - Implementation at Management level is lacking
 - Not just Producer's fault

Thanks for listening...

