

Footbaths for the Prevention and Control of Digital Dermatitis



Each case costs an average of \$170; it's better to take action quickly!

Digital dermatitis...

\$170

It is a **highly contagious** disease that is difficult to control.

The use of footbaths is a sound strategy to control this disease in your herd, but it is not a magic bullet!

Digital dermatitis is a disease caused by bacteria called **treponemes**.

FOR A PREVALENCE OF AROUND 20%

THE RECOMMENDED FOOTBATH FREQUENCY IS **4 TIMES PER WEEK**

Examples: 2 times per day for 2 days / 1 time per day for 4 days, etc.



If the prevalence of digital dermatitis is **HIGHER THAN 20%** and/or if the cleanliness score of feet and legs is high (Score of **3** and **4**).



If the prevalence of digital dermatitis is **LESS THAN 10%**.

Score **1**



The feet and legs are clean, with little or no manure on the feet.

Score **2**



The feet and legs are slightly dirty, with some manure on the lower legs.

Score **3**



The feet and legs are dirty, with plaques of manure on the feet extending up to the hocks.

Score **4**



The feet and legs are very dirty, with a lot of dried layers of manure on the feet and higher than the hocks.



Footbaths are **NOT TREATMENTS**, they are a preventive measure. Your veterinarian and your hoof trimmer can help you choose the appropriate products for treating the active lesions and establish a prevention protocol using footbaths.

These are the basic principles you need to follow to improve your chances of achieving better control of digital dermatitis in your herd:

The protocol

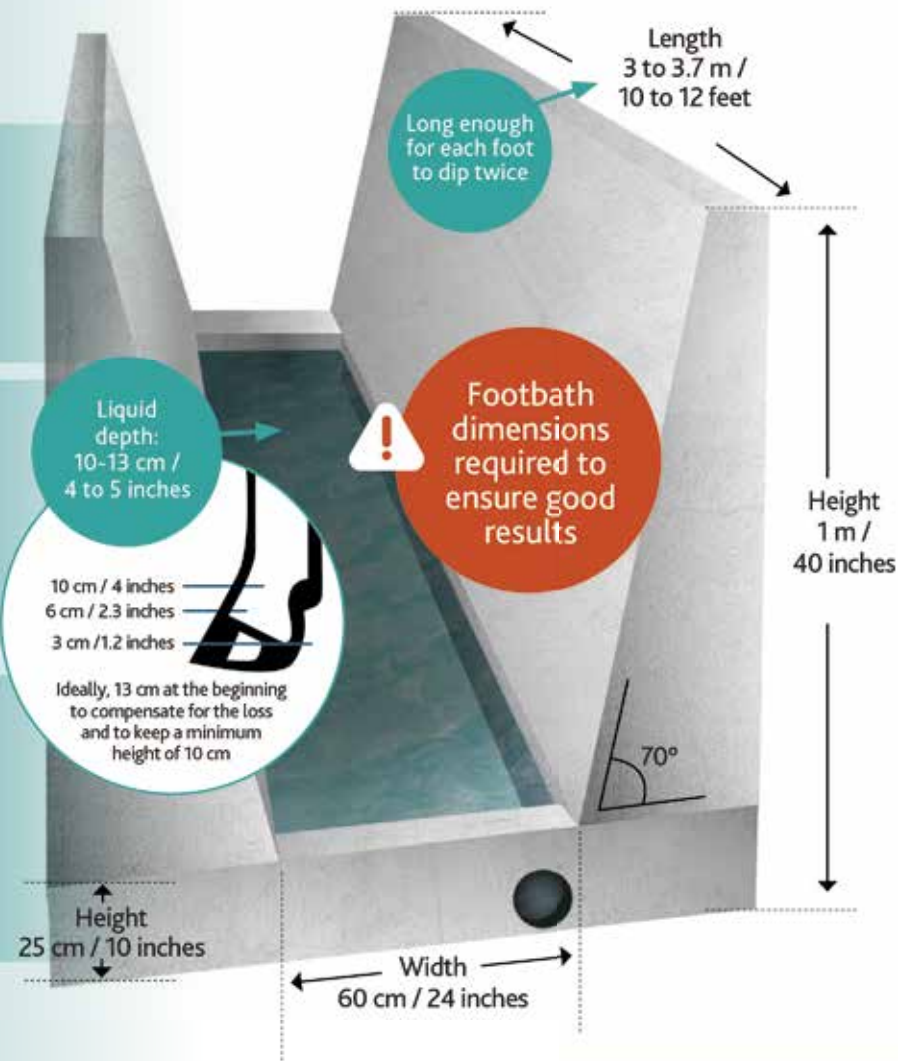
- Establish a prevention protocol in cooperation with your veterinarian and your hoof trimmer.
- Reassess your protocol regularly and do not forget to include the dry cows and the heifers!

Replace the footbath solution:

- At every 150 to 200 passages or according to the manufacturer recommendations, if available;
- Every day even if the maximum number of passages is not reached; and,
- Clean the footbath between solution changes, because it can be a source of contagion.

The footbath is placed:

- Far from the exit of the milking parlour or robot;
- Carefully to ensure cows' flow is not slowed down and does not obstruct cows' exit from the robot;
- In an alleyway at the end of the rows of stalls; and,
- Close to an area where there is a source of water and a drain.



Examples of products to use*:

- 5% copper sulfate
- 3% acidified copper sulfate (pH 4)
- 5-10% zinc sulfate
- 1% thymol
- 2-5% formalin

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*Do not mix the products.

Calculation of the concentration

Footbath volume:

$$\text{Length (cm)} \times \text{Width (cm)} \times \text{Depth of liquid (cm)} = X \text{ cm}^3 / 1000 = X \text{ litres}$$

E.g.: 310 cm x 60 cm x 11 cm = 204,600 cm³ / 1000 = 205 litres

Amount to be added to a 200-litre footbath according to the concentration of the product:

Solid ingredient at:

- 3% = 6 kg
- 5% = 10 kg
- 10% = 20 kg

Liquid ingredient at:

- 1% = 2 litres
- 2% = 4 litres
- 5% = 10 litres



For approved commercial footbath products, the instructions from the label must be followed thoroughly.