

H O O F H E A L T H

JERSEY ADVANTAGE: SMALLER BODY MASS AND HARD BLACK HOOVES REDUCES LAMENESS RESULTING FROM FOOT DISEASE

A Series of Short Video Clips to a More Profitable Herd

<http://www.jerseycanada.com/pages/jersey-canada-videos.html>



Video 1 (1:25)

“Hoof Care: The Foundation of Cow Health”

Proper hoof trimming is essential for cow comfort and performance, and it always pays off in the end.



Video 2 (2:03)

“Locomotion: The Key to Assessing Hoof Health”

If cows are not comfortable on their feet, they spend less time at the feed bunk, and put less milk in the bulk tank. Paying attention to how a cow walks is the best way to detect lameness.



Video 3 (2:55)

“Trimming for Comfort & Traction”

Proper hoof trimming starts with watching how a cow moves on her feet. A well-trimmed hoof allows the cow to stand with her toes pointing forward, with flexible joints aligned, and walking with a confident stride.



Video 4 (1:08)

“Exceptions to Consider when Trimming Various Breeds”

Different colour hooves have different characteristics. Black hooves are hard. White hooves are soft. A good hoof trimmer will evaluate each animal and trim accordingly.



Video 5 (3:30)

“Foot Angle: A Small Adjustment Goes a Long Way”

Slight modifications to foot angle can have a significant impact on cow comfort. Even changing the angle by 2 or 3 degrees will affect the cow's gait, locomotion, and joint movement.



Video 6 (3:37)

“Bedding Makes a Difference”

Trimming techniques tailored to a specific bedding type make for comfortable and more profitable cows.



Video 7 (7:29)

“Testimonials”

Listen to dairy farmers from across Canada talk about the hoof care protocols they have adopted on their farms.



Video 8 (1:08)

“Final Thoughts from Expert Hoof Trimmer, Kiyoshi Kamei”

“I have a great appreciation for the individuality of each cow, and as a hoof trimmer, my goal is to increase the overall health of the cow.”

Assessing Hoof Health

Cows with healthy, properly trimmed feet will:

- Stand squarely and bear weight evenly on all claws of all 4 feet;
- Have normal posture and head carriage while standing and walking;
- Have a confident stride and proper joint flexibility.

Cows that are moderately lame will:

- Favour one limb, demonstrating a slight limp and head bob;
- Have a mildly arched back when standing and walking;
- Walk with stiff joints that limit flexibility.

Cows that are severely lame will:

- Avoid bearing weight on one or more limbs;
- Have an extremely arched back when standing or walking;
- Walk with a very hesitant stride and obvious joint stiffness;
- Move around with an obvious head bob as the animal tries to shift weight away from the sore limb;
- Regular trimming is an effective management tool to prevent lameness from progressing to this extent.

Lameness is Preventable

Cow lameness is very serious and costly, and the most visible animal welfare issue on Canadian dairy farms. It is reported to be the #3 reason for culling. Lameness causes significant economic loss from reduced production, extra days open, increased veterinary treatments and premature culling. It is preventable through a carefully managed hoof-trimming program.

The Jersey Difference

Studies show that Jersey cows present 70% less foot problems than other breeds. This evidence of reduced foot disease is largely due to their hard black hooves and smaller body mass.

Longevity and Profitability

Although the Jersey Classification Scorecard places the most emphasis on Mammary System (48%), there is now an increased emphasis on Feet & Legs (18%). This is largely due to the fact that sound Feet & Legs and Udder Conformation contribute most significantly to the longevity and profitability of the animal.

Ideal Grazers

Jerseys are hardy and efficient grazers as their strong feet and legs allow them to move around pastures with ease. Their smaller body size also means less damage to wet pasture fields.