

Sirius, LLC

Use of Hoof-Zink as a Replacement for Copper Sulfate in Footbaths at a 2,800 Head Dairy Farm to Prevent Hairy Heal Warts

The objective of this field trial was to determine if Hoof-Zink could be used as a replacement for copper sulfate in footbaths at a commercial dairy farm to prevent hairy heal warts (*digital dermatitis*). The 2,800 head Western Iowa dairy farm uses footbaths containing 5% copper sulfate solution two times a week during the winter months (data collected starting January 1, 2006) and baths are changed every 200 cows. From February 11 through March 11 (weeks 7 to 11), a 5% Hoof-Zink solution was used in replacement of the copper sulfate. After March 11, footbaths were switched back to the 5% copper sulfate solution.

At this dairy, any cow requiring maintenance hoof trimming and those marked as lame are trimmed on weekly bases (Monday thru Saturday). Data is routinely collected on foot ulcers, abscesses, heal warts, and foot rot. The data was pooled by week starting January 1, 2006 through March 31, 2006 (weeks 1 through 13).

The table below shows the incidences of foot ulcers, abscesses and heal warts by week for the 2,800 head dairy farm. This dairy has a history of heal wart incidences during the winter months, but rarely observes any cases of foot rot during the same period. The incidences of ulcers and abscesses remained fairly consistent through out the entire trial. The cases of heal warts peaked during week 3 while being treated with copper sulfate, but started to decrease during week 4. The incidences of heal warts stayed lower during the Hoof-Zink treatment and remained lower when switched back to copper sulfate.

In conclusion, a 5% Hoof-Zink solution was successfully used to replace a 5% copper sulfate solution in footbaths at a commercial dairy during the winter months to control hairy heal warts.

