

# Footbath Management Protocol

Management/Ownership	Staff Protocol
Footbath frequency & milking choice	
Footbath placement	
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Footbath dimensions (N.B. Cook, et al. 2012)	
Footbath volume:	
Gallons = ft. X ft. X ft. X 7.48 gal./cu. ft.	
(Volume to provide desired cow passes per footbath fill.)	



<b>Treatment product concentration:</b>	
Footbath refill (if needed)	
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End of milking	
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# Sample Protocols

Management/Ownership	Staff Protocol
Footbath frequency & milking choice	
Establish a minimum number of consecutive days for treatment. Producer may reduce days if hoof health goals are achieved based on future trimming reports or increase days for improved results.  If used once daily, select the milking with the most experienced footbath operator.	<ul> <li>Run footbath in AM milking:</li> <li>Monday</li> <li>Tuesday</li> <li>Wednesday</li> </ul>
Footbath placement	
Impede cow flow as little as possible; but fill the alley width or position sidewalls preventing cows "side-stepping" the bath.	<ul> <li>Fill footbath with water to 4 in. depth. (mark)</li> </ul>
Footbath dimensions (N.B. Cook, et al. 2012)	
<ul> <li>Identify footbath length to produce 2+ immersions for each rear hoof, depth well below footbath top to reduce spillage/waste and width to produce desired volume.</li> <li>Length – preferred minimum 8 ft.</li> <li>Depth – 10 in. step-in height for 4-6 in. fill</li> <li>Width – no less than 20 in. with slanted sides</li> </ul>	
Footbath volume:  Gallons = length, ft. X depth, ft. X width, ft. X 7.48 gal./cu. ft.  (Volume to provide desired cow passes per footbath fill.	



#### Treatment product concentration:

Manufacturer's recommendation relative to footbath volume.

 Label a container specific to the product and mark the "fill line" for the appropriate weight or volume for each fill.

(Increases consistency and avoids waste (\$\$\$) of the "bag/half bag" mentality of copper sulfate.)

- Fill treatment container to measured line.
- Pour into footbath water. (Mix only if required by product)

### Footbath refill (if needed)

Discuss with management the herd size and footbath cow pass potential based on the footbath volume and the treatment product of choice.

If cow numbers exceed the cow pass potential, select a "pen change" for cleaning and refilling the footbath.

 PEN 3 - Empty bath, rinse clean and refill with water and treatment product as before.

### **End of milking**

Smaller herd sizes may allow treatment for multiple milkings with a single footbath fill.

(Footbath efficacy often ends after 24 hrs. due to contamination reaction over time.)

• Empty footbath and rinse clean for future use.