Effects of Hoof Trimming on Locomotion Score Pattern in a Dairy Farm

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Hoof trimming, proper bedding, foot bath and management of ratio are main factors in health of the cattle hooves. Hoof trimming result in proper weight bearing surfaces on the hooves, however, it has been proven that hoof trimming can increase locomotion score. This current study has been done to evaluate impact of hoof trimming on locomotion score (LS) in a dairy farm consist of 1000 milking cows with average production of 37 liters during a 9 month period. All cows have been scored on monthly basis and hoof trimming were done based on days in milk and drying off the cows.

In according to the results data from 2192 cows were recorded. The average LS before (1.48) and after (1.45) trimming didn't show any significant changes. In 1762 sound cows with LS of 1 or 2, 87.45 percent didn't show any changes in next score (89.9% in untrimmed cows), 10.1 (9.1% in untrimmed cows), 1.8% (3% in untrimmed cows), 0.65% (0.7% in untrimmed cows) changed to LS 3, 4 and 5 respectively. In score three cows following hoof trimming 46.8% (46.8% in untrimmed cows), 43% (44.2% in untrimmed cows) and 8.4% (9.3% in untrimmed cows) decrease, without any change or increased respectively.

Results indicate that increase of LS following hoof trimming occurs more frequently in LS 1, 2 and three. Results of current study are compatible with the previous reports concerning risk of increasing LS and possibly lameness following hoof trimming.

Key word: Hoof Trimming, Locomotion Score, Dairy Farm