A retrospective analysis of field data to investigate the prevalence of foot lesions in cows in Somerset and Dorset.


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Introduction

Retrospective analysis of foot lesions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Farms</th>
<th>Cows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>21,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>26,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Materials & Methods

- Seven Vet Techs with Diploma/NPTC3 Qualification
- Mobility Scoring/Foot Trimming
- Part of Vet Led Team

Computerised Recording

- Ruggedised Laptop
- Session Summaries
- Rapid Analysis
- Benchmarking of Farms

Discussion

- The use of computerised software for recording lesions at foot trimming dramatically improves the quality of data collected on farm. It also allows quick and easy summary analysis on farm and benchmarking between farms.
- Recording of lameness and foot trimming data is not straight forward. Primary lesions need to be separated from secondary lesions and continued work needs to be carried out to improve standardisation of lesion recognition and recording.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to the Vet Techs for their ongoing support and their acceptance of the introduction of new technology.

Results

Comparison of prevalence of lesions recorded at foot trimming for 2008, 2012 and 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No Farms</th>
<th>Total No sessions</th>
<th>Cows with all feet seen</th>
<th>Cows with back feet seen</th>
<th>Cows with only front feet seen</th>
<th>Cows with Lesions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>945</td>
<td>21186</td>
<td>20668</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>11294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>1209</td>
<td>14762</td>
<td>25453</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>14260</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>19281</td>
<td>25453</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>14260</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions

- Sole Ulcer (inc. Bruising), White Line disease and Digital Dermatitis remain the main causes of lesions in UK conditions (Murray et al. 1996).
- Consistently 50 to 55% of feet examined at foot trimming sessions have a recordable lesion.
- Where cows are mostly presented for preventative trimming the predominant lesion described is bruising.
- White line disease prevalence has reduced with time with Sole Lesions (Sole Ulcer/Bruising) becoming more relevant.
- 82% of lesions are on the hindlimb.
- The majority of lesions are on the lateral claw of the hindlimb. On the front foot the majority of lesions are on the medial claw.
- Lesion analysis is vital when investigating lameness on farm.

Reference