



Guidelines to manage foot-bathing

Need/issue: Lameness (e.g. footrot, CODD, scald)

Aim: Guidelines for appropriate managing of foot-bathing to prevent and control footrot and lameness.

How to implement:

- Treatment periods should be considered whenever the disease is clinically present.
- For treatments it is suggested a 10% zinc sulphate or a 10% copper sulphate solution on which sheep need to stand in at least for 5-10 minutes.
- Let feet dry for at least 20 minutes on a hard surface before come back to graze.



Description:

- Foot-bathing is regarded as a method to disinfect the foot of sheep after they are gathered in restricted areas in farm with a history of lameness.
- When a group of sheep stay in a confined area for a given period have higher probability to being infected each other. For this reason, farmers should pass systematically them through a foot-bath.



Expected benefits:

- Standardized approach for the control and eradication of footrot and related lameness which allow to reach optimal well-being and economical benefits, including milk production.

Prerequisites and/or limits:

- Farmers should be aware of the health risks of chemicals used for the treatment. It is suggested to wear correct personal protective equipment and use the products in a ventilated space.
- To make the treatment effective, the foot bath must be refilled with a frequency depending on the product, size of foot bath and number of sheep.

Country: Italy

Dairy or/and meat sheep: Dairy and Meat sheep

Category of Animal (ewe, replacement, lamb):
Ewe

Topic:

- Health
- Nutrition
- Management

Level of solution:

- Knowledge
- Practical

Source of information:

N/A

