

Who is the Judge of a Good Hoof Trimming Job?

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How do dairy producers know their hoof trimmer is doing a good job?

- A good hoof trimmer trims with confidence.
 - A good hoof trimmer understands the causes of lameness.
 - Proper hoof trimming prevents or reduces lameness.
 - A good hoof trimmer understands the proper functions of the hoof and through proper hoof trimming can reestablish these functions.
 - A good hoof trimmer understands the growth and wear of the hoofs in various environments and adjusts trimming procedures accordingly.
 - A good hoof trimmer gets immediate improvement when trimming lame cows.
 - A good hoof trimmer can consult with the farm management team about lameness prevention.
1. If the dairy producer is not using a prevention or maintenance approach to hoof care it is very difficult for any hoof trimmer to succeed. Cows will not be comfortable before and after hoof trimming. More lameness is automatically the result.
 2. If the dairy producer is not dealing with lameness when it first occurs, it can result in permanent damage to the hoof. Many times the best hoof trimmers cannot reverse that damage.
 3. It is not how perfect the hoof looks after trimming it is how well the correct balance and weight bearing of the hoof is after trimming.
 4. It is an achievable goal to have one lame cow per month for every 200 cows. This does not include diseases of the skin like Interdigital Phlegmon (Acute Foot Rot) or Digital Dermatitis (Foot warts).
 5. Dairy producers that trim their cows twice per year average one more lactation, per cow, per lifetime.

The dairy cow is the ultimate judge of how good the hoof trimming job was performed.

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