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

A comparison of 2008, 2012 and 2015

JD Reader BVSc DCHP MRCVS, MC Burnell BVetMed DBR CertCHP MRCVS,
Cattle Lameness Academy (Synergy Farm Health Ltd)
www.cattlelamenessacademy.co.uk

Cattle Lameness ACADEMY
www.cattlelamenessacademy.co.uk

RAFT Solutions Ltd
research | advanced breeding | food futures | training

Introduction

Retrospective analysis of foot lesions

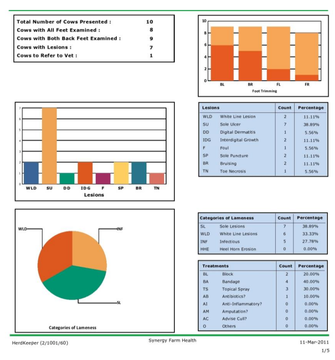
Year	Farms	Cows
2008	25	13,000
2012	120	21,000
2015	142	26,000

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

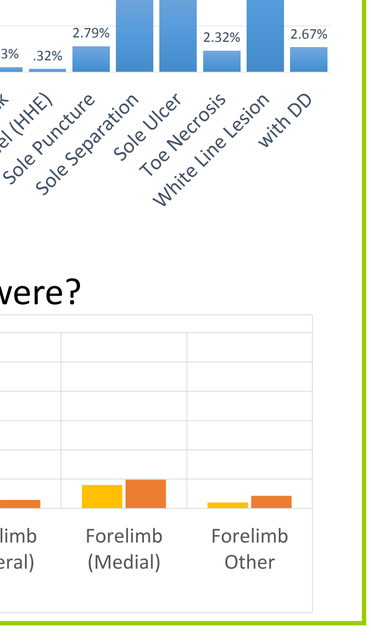
- ❑ The use of computerised software for recording lesions at foot trimming dramatically improves the quality of data collected on farm. It also allows quick and easy summary analysis on farm and benchmarking between farms.
- ❑ Recording of lameness and foot trimming data is not straight forward. Primary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

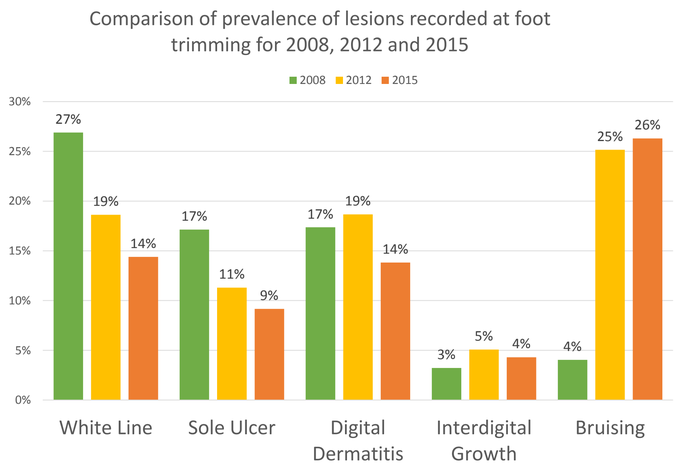
Acknowledgements

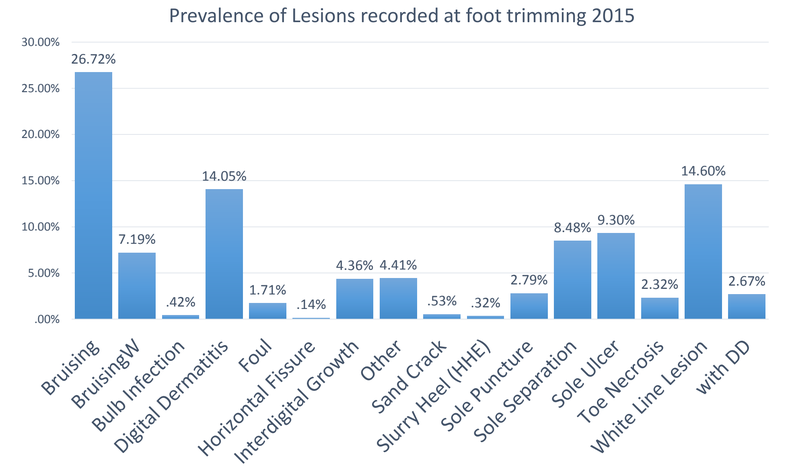
The authors are grateful to the Vet Techs for their ongoing support and their acceptance of the introduction of new technology.

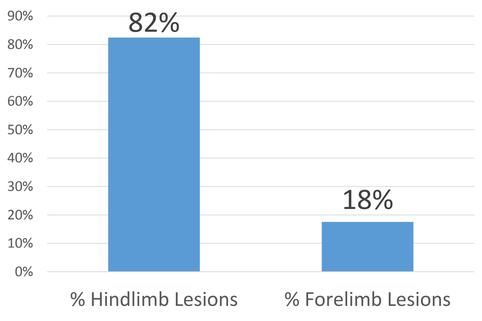
Results

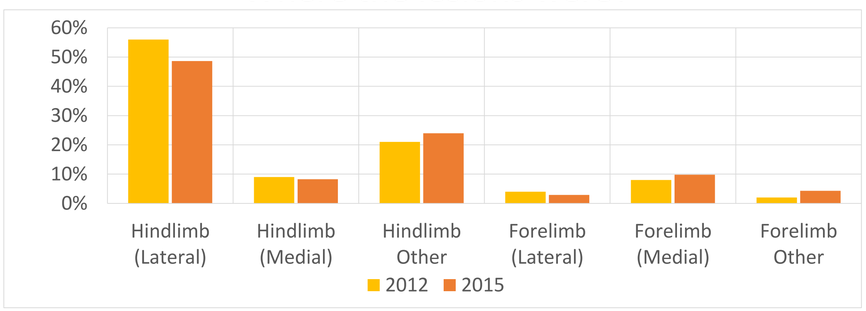
	2012	2015
No Farms	120	142
Total No sessions	945	1209
No Cows Seen	21186	26230
Cows with all feet seen	14762	19281
Cows with back feet seen	20668	25453
Cows with only front feet seen	538	272
Cows with Lesions	11294	14260





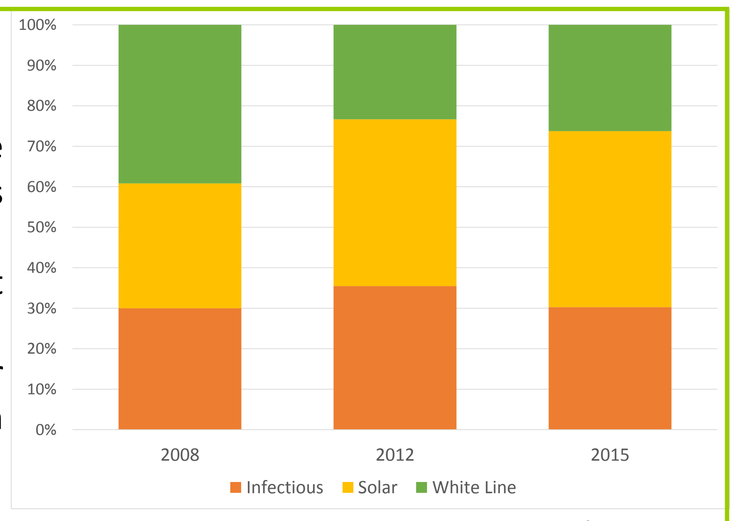






Conclusions

- ❑ 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

Burnell MC and Reader JD 2013 A Retrospective analysis of field data to investigate the prevalence of Foot Lesions in Dairy Cows in Somerset and Dorset. A comparison of 2008 and 2012.
Barker ZE 2007 Epidemiology of lameness in dairy cows. PhD Thesis, University of Warwick.
Burnell MC and Reader JD 2009 A Retrospective Analysis Of Field Data To Investigate The Prevalence Of Foot Lesions In Dairy Cows In Somerset and Dorset 2006-2008. Proceedings of 1st Cattle Lameness Conference 2009
Murray RD Downham DY Clarkson MH Faull WB Hughes JW Manson FJ Merritt JB Russell WB Sutherst JE and Ward WR 1996. Epidemiology of lameness in dairy cattle. Description and analysis of foot lesions. Vet Rec 138:586-591.

synergy FARM HEALTH

xLvets Excellence in Practice

Mill Farm, Studley Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2QR
01765 645893
office@raftsolutions.co.uk
www.raftsolutions.co.uk

BISHOPTON VETERINARY GROUP