

Leg and hoof problems are a major health concern for many dairy farmers. Cow lameness results in poor performance and substantial economic loss. Nutrition and feeding, housing and environment, concurrent disease, genetic influences, and management factors all predispose a cow to problems. The greatest incidence (90 percent) of lameness involves the foot, and of these, 90 percent involve the rear feet. The most frequent causes of lameness are: laminitis, claw disease, digital dermatitis, and foot rot. Since individual cows often have more than one cause for lameness at the same time, it is important to understand the different types of lameness as well as the treatment and prevention protocols.

The Meadowlark Extension District hosted a Lameness in Dairy Cattle Workshop with featured presenter Dr Jeff Defrain Dairy Research Nutritionist from the Zinpro Corporation. Dr Defrain and Dr Luis Mendonca, KSU Dairy Veterinarian dissected some cadaver hooves. The group then met at Kelly Hill's dairy for live cow treatment sessions. This program was presented in English and Spanish, so that all could participate.



