




Topic	Topic	Topic
Technical Efficiency	Animal Welfare	Economic Resilience
		

**Background**  
Lameness is a major animal welfare concern within the dairy industry, and leads to financial losses. Strategic hoof trimming, also known as routine hoof trimming, is a preventative practice where the entire herd has their hooves examined (and trimmed if required).

**How does the strategy work?**

**Routine inspection of the entire herd**

Lift cows in trimming crate



Inspect hooves and trim if required



**When**

Minimum 1 x per year (at drying off)

Second routine inspection ~8 weeks post-partum may be beneficial

**Suggested method**

Five-step Dutch method

**Positive features:**

- Restore hoof conformation across the medial and lateral claws
- Detection and treatment of mild lesions that are not yet causing lameness
- Reduce the number of cows with overgrown claws, which is a risk to some lesion types
- Identify the most common lesions, allowing associated risks to be minimised on farm
- Prevention of future lameness cases, improving longevity and animal welfare and reducing economic costs

**Be careful, especially on these points:**

- Hoof trimming must be carried out by trained personnel
- Care must be taken not to over-trim
- Do not wait until your scheduled routine trim to treat a cow identified as lame, treat as soon as possible

**Specific advice:**

- Routine trimming should be seen as a 'routine inspection'. Upon inspection of the hoof, trained personnel should decide if trimming is required
- Cows walking long distances to pasture may not require routine trimming, however, should still be inspected

**Equipment involved? Investment?**



+



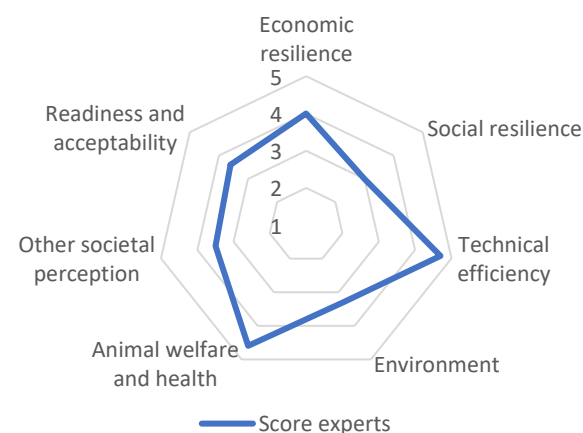
+

Adequate training of farmer (course/mentor)

**OR**

Pay a trained hoof trimmer to carry out routine hoof trimming on your farm

**Assessment of method**



**Quote of the farmer:**

*"Routine trimming helped me to reduce the lameness prevalence in my herd, saving me time and money"*

