

A close-up photograph of several horse hooves on a dark, textured floor. The focus is sharp on the two hooves in the foreground, showing their shape and texture. The background is blurred, showing other hooves and legs of horses in a stable or arena setting.

Hoof Check

What is a hoof check ?

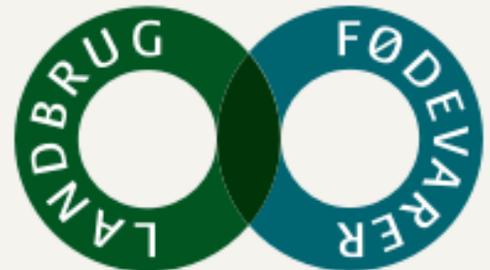
Hoof check

Lameness and hoof health in dairy herds - Control campaign 2022

“Hoof and limb disorders are one of the most extensive disease complexes in Danish dairy cattle production.

Cows with hoof and limb disorders will most often be exposed to significant pain and suffering, which negatively affects their welfare.”

Landbrug & Fødevarer



Hoof check

Each dairy cow must be assessed for how she walks and whether her hooves are in order.

The hoof inspection applies to dairy cows and must be done as needed, but at least twice a year.

Hoof treatment and trimming must be done as needed



Hoof check

- 1) Investigate the incidence and extent of hoof/limb disorders in the selected herds.
- 2) Control the handling, treatment and medication recording of a selection of recently treated cows.
- 3) Check if there is a treatment facility that allows legs of dairy cows to be lifted.
- 4) Check that hoof inspections are carried out at least twice a year.

Hoof check

1) The lameness assessment is based on a 5-level lameness score where

- 1=normal
- 2=uneven walk
- 3=lame
- 4=clear lameness
- 5=severe lameness

Hoof check – score 3 (Lame)

Stands and walks with a bent back

Taking small steps



Hoof check – score 4 (Clear lameness)

Stands and walks with a bent back

Avoids leaning on one or more legs



Hoof check – score 5 (Severe lameness)

Stands and walks with a bent back

Avoids supporting on several legs

Relieves leg strain when standing still



Hoof check

2) handling lame animals correctly





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Hoof check

3) There must be a treatment facility on the farm which makes it possible to lift the rear legs of dairy cows using mechanical aids. There can be both manual and/or electrical aids



Hoof check

4) An annual hoof inspection must be carried out by a person who is not responsible for the farm.

(It can either be a vet or a hoof trimmer)

The provision must ensure that at least one of the inspections is carried out by an impartial professional.

If you use a hoof trimmer (from the outside), the requirement is met.



Hoof check

If the requirements are not met, it will require a revisit.

If it is still a problem with lame animals and/or the other requirements, it gives a fine.

In the worst case, a police report!



Hoof check

The result.....

In 2015, it turned out that 28 per cent of the farmers did not comply with the rules on animal welfare

