

Cattle Foot Bath Products

Formaldehyde

- Hazardous material monitored by the EPA; dangerous to breathe or contact mucous membranes
- Recommended to use as a 3-5% solution on an intermittent basis
- 1 gallon of 36% formaldehyde (Formalin) in 18 gallons of water = 5% solution
- ½ gallon of concentrated formaldehyde in 20 gallons of water = 5% solution
- Can cause skin burns above hooves in concentrations higher than 5% when used for more than three days consecutively
- Can cause skin irritation at normal concentrations when used continuously
- Can cause teat irritation particularly if carried onto bedding
- Effective against all foot disease agents

Copper sulfate

- Environmental concerns are increasing with copper; little direct health hazard
- Irritating in high concentrations
- High concentrations lead to brittle hoof horn
- 5% solution (20 lb. per 50 gals. of water) minimal level to prevent foot rot, not adequate for treatment, however; little if any effect on foot warts at this level
- 10% solution (40 lb. per 50 gals. of water) ideal for foot rot control and treatment; *may help* in foot wart control at this concentration
- May require warm/hot water to dissolve total solids in high concentrations
- Vinegar aids in dissolving in hard water

Zinc sulfate

- Alternative to copper sulfate with less environmental concerns at present
- Similar range of effect and characteristics as copper sulfate, but requires higher concentrations
- Non-irritating to the skin
- 20% solution (68 lb. per 50 gals. of water) necessary for total control

Tetracycline

- Antibiotic effective in control and treatment of foot warts
- *Not effective* for foot rot control
- Calcium in water can bind with tetracycline rendering it inactive; use rain water or softened water if possible
- Used as 0.1% solution or 50 grams per 15 gallons of water in foot bath
- Used as 3.0% solution or 100 grams per 1 gallon of water for direct spraying on the hoof
- Medical grade, 324 gram per lb. powder is most economical and effective
- Must have veterinarian label due to “extra-label use”

Lincomycin

- Antibiotic effective in control and treatment of foot warts
- Also used in combination with Spectinomycin (LS-50), possibly improves results
- Not effective for foot rot control
- Used as 0.009% solution or 16 grams (1 package of Lincomix powder) per 50 gallons of water
- Used in concentrated solution at 1 level tablespoon per 1 gallon of water for direct spraying on the hoof
- Must have veterinarian label due to “extra-label use”

Tank Sprayers: concentrated solution directly on to the hoof.

- Tetracycline - 100 grams per gallon of water in a Chapin tank sprayer or 25 grams per 1 quart water.
- Lincomycin - 1 level tablespoon of Lincomix/gallon of water
- Formaldehyde – 5-10% solution (up to double the recommended foot bath solution)