

Poster Abstracts

Hoof Care - Standards and Quality Assurance during Training

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Abstract

The evolving forms of livestock keeping, along with indoor housing year round on many different surfaces and larger herds have demanded change and posed new challenges to hoof care. Toussaint Raven introduced functional hoof care in the 1970's. The LVA Echem developed the Echem model for functional hoof management, a methodic-didactic concept to teach a

4-step method, practiced since 1983. Every year 800 3rd year agricultural trainees come to learn about protection of animals and hoof care. Over 1200 participants have completed the course for specialist level I, caring for their own stock. And 100 profession hoof trimmers as well as 20 trainers and 21 examiners have been trained. Domestic and international advanced training have been a regular part of the LVA Echem program for ten years. German accident statistics for 2004 indicate 2370 incidents during hoof care and 31 at the hoof care box. Training to become a professional hoof care manager demands extensive basic education and raising awareness in regard to pertinent topics such as animal protection, occupational safety and health issues. An essential element of hoof care training is to create and develop internationally applicable standards. The first steps have been taken by European Hoofcare/ DLG Frankfurt, where hoof trimmers, hoof specialists and veterinarians all work together.

Intoduction

Practical hoof care has been common for many decades. But the evolutions in livestock keeping have demanded substantial changes. Indoor housing year round on many different surfaces (hard and soft) and larger herds have posed new challenges to hoof care (Dayen, 1995; LWK Hannover, 1995; Roesicke, 2002).

E. Toussaint Raven, along with T. Benedictus, introduced functional hoof care in the early 1970's. The LVA Echem developed the Echem model for functional hoof management, a methodic-didactic concept to teach a 4-step procedure (Landmann, 1993; Landmann, 1994; Landmann, 1994a).

The LVA Echem has been working with cattle and hooves since 1925, and since 1993 the new training model has been applied, teaching over 800 3rd year agricultural trainees about the protection of animals and hoof care every year (Landmann, 1999).

Hoof care training

Over 1200 participants have completed the specialist level I course, caring for their own stock. And 100 profession hoof trimmers as well as 20 trainers and 21 examiners have been trained (Refer to the illustration of the Echem training model) (LWK Hannover, 2002, 2005; LWK Hannover, 1996).

For the past ten years, domestic (Echem Hoof Days) and international (International Multiplier Meeting for Hoof Management and Hoof Hygiene, European Hoof Care of DLG Frankfurt) advanced training have been regular occurrences (Landmann, 2007).

The following figures clearly illustrate the significance of well-founded hoof care training: Of the 37,510 agriculture-related accidents that occurred in 2004, 2370 happened as a result of hoof care.

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Training to become a professional hoof care manager demands extensive basic education and heightened awareness in regard to pertinent topics (animal protection, occupational safety and health issues) (Landmann, 2007a).

Fifteen years of experience in "General Cattle Hoof Care" have proven that an essential element of hoof care training is to create and develop internationally applicable standards (Landmann et al., 2004; Landmann et al., 2006).

Echem Model for Functional Hoof Management

Range of Training Courses

Hoof care basics

- Trial course

Hoof care for your own stock

- Specialist level I: Introductory course

Professional hoof management

- Specialist level II: Licensed hoof care specialist
- Specialist level III: Agronomist / hoof care specialist

Qualification as trainer and examiner

- Specialist level IV: Instructor

Specialist level I

- Functional hoof management basics (11 u*)
- Introduction to practical hoof care (43 u*)
- Assessment

Specialist level II

- In-depth hoof care skills, theory and practice (179 u)
- Focus on customer (11 u)
- Examination

Specialist level III

- General technical qualification (200 u)
- Special technical qualification (80 u)
- Practice oriented training (120 u)
- Examination

Specialist level IV

- Educational basics (55 u)
- Supervised training and guidance (125 u)
- Examination

* u = unit = 45-minute session

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