



Minnesota Dairy Days

Educating the dairy industry on today's and tomorrow's dairy technologies.

Lameness: What's New?

Marcia I. Endres

Jim A. Salfer

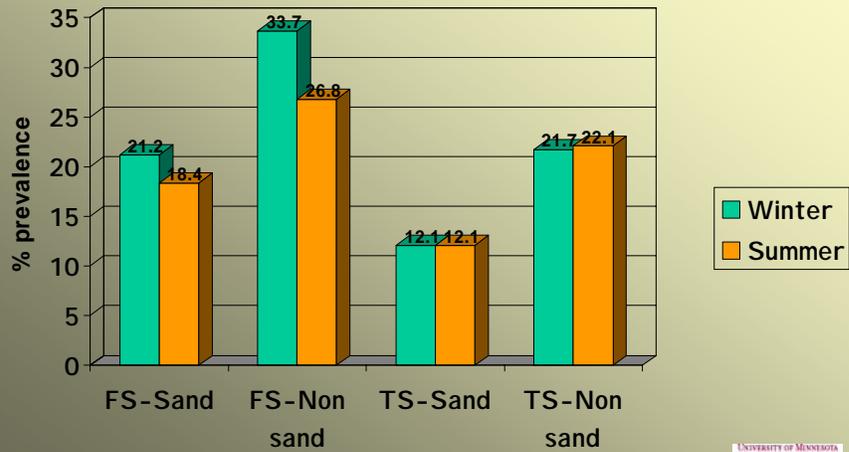


Does it cost money?

Is it painful???



Lameness prevalence in WI dairy herds



Cook, 2003

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Is behavior of lame cows the same as non-lame cows?

Is there a difference in stall usage between cows in herds with mattress stalls and cows in herds with sand stalls?

Cook et al., 2004, JDS



Factors related to increased rates of lameness

- Reduced lying times
- Increased total standing time on hard surfaces
- Standing with the two front feet on the stall platform and the rear two feet in the alley (perching)

Cook et al., 2004



Study description

- 6 herds mattress, 6 herds sand
- Cows scored for locomotion
- 10-12 cows per herd were marked
- Tracked cows for a 24-hr filming period
- Recorded location, activity and time spent in each activity



Activities recorded

- Time lying down in stall
- Time standing up in stall, including perching
- Time standing up in the alley, including drinking
- Time up feeding
- Time up milking between departure and return to the pen



Herd characteristics

	Mattress	Sand
Herd size	305	298
Cows in pen	77	96
Stocking rate	108	108
RHA	24,730	26,206
Turnover rate	36.5	28.8
Lameness prevalence	24.0	11.1

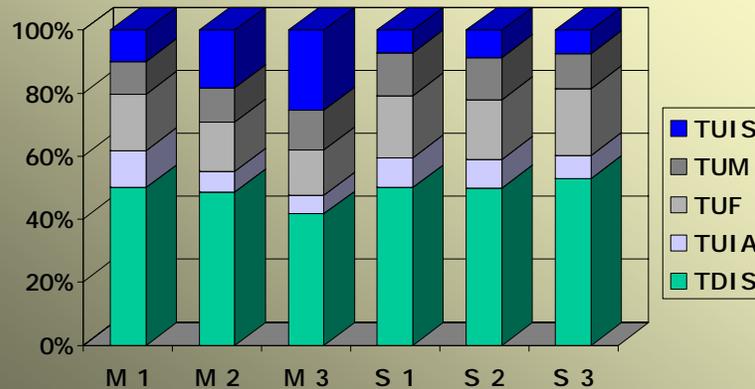


Daily time budgets - base effect

- No difference in time lying down in stall (sand=12.01; mattress=11.66)
- No difference in time up in alley and up milking
- Mattress = longer time standing up in stall (1.61 h/d)
- Sand = greater time up feeding



Daily time budgets - lameness effect



Cook et al., 2004



What can be done?

- Build or redesign stalls to meet cows' requirements and allow them to lie down and rise more normally
- Improve management factors that may be related to lameness
- Move lame cows to a special needs area with a comfortable surface - such as a composting bedded pack



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Doesn't this look comfy?

