



Watch Livestock For Foot Rot
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Tropical Storm Debby is headed out to sea, but the Many problems she caused are still here. One of particular concern to livestock owners is foot rot.

Foot rot is a term loosely used to describe lameness associated with the bovine foot. However, true foot rot is characterized by acute inflammation of the skin and adjacent soft tissues of the interdigital cleft or space.

It is accompanied by diffuse swelling, varying degrees of lameness and in most cases, by a foul-smelling necrotic lesion of the interdigital skin.

It is a frequent problem of beef and dairy cattle, but can affect goats, horses and swine. The source of this disease is bacterial with stock especially susceptible in poorly drained, muddy pens and pastures, the kind left behind by Tropical Storm Debby.

Occurrences are sporadic and usually affecting one or two animals at a time. However the condition may affect larger numbers of livestock in outbreak situations where animals are under stress and chronically have wet feet.

To treat, the affected foot should be cleaned and inspected for characteristic clinical signs, and to rule out other causes for the swelling and lameness. The treatment of choice is parenteral antibiotics administered for three to five days.

Feed additives, such as chlortetracycline and oxytetracycline, have been used for control and treatment of the disease in commercial herds with large numbers of cattle which are difficult to treat individually.