

## **Establishment of a Hoof Health Data Collection System for Dairy Cattle**

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The Canadian Dairy Network has initiated a project to establish a hoof health data collection system for dairy cattle in Canada. The objective of this project is to carry out the ground work to prepare a full proposal for the collection of standardized data on hoof health across Canada based on hoof trimmer recording.

The proposal will assess data standardization among regional groups of hoof trimmers, data compliance, data flow from trimmers to Canadian DHI and to Canadian Dairy Network, and estimate costs for providing the data in a standardized format, as well as for making the necessary changes at CDHI and CDN.

The project, over the time period April to October, 2012, will accomplish the following:

1. Assessment of data currently collected by hoof trimmers in various parts of Canada
2. Proposal for data standardization among hoof trimmers
3. Assess costs, as well as the process of data flow from trimmers to CDHI and to CDN
4. Identification of funding venue and preparation of R&D proposal for submission.

This project recognizes the hard work and innovative thinking that has gone into the progress to date that has been accomplished predominantly on a regional basis to record, collect and organize objective hoof health data, but also the need to coordinate these efforts on a national and ongoing basis. It is intended to build on this early work to support an effective and sustainable database to benefit the Canadian dairy industry in the future. The development of a Canadian hoof health database for genetic improvement purposes will benefit dairy producers and their partners in the dairy industry by addressing issues around cow lameness and hoof lesions leading to improved dairy cattle productivity, profitability, and animal welfare.

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