

A tool to help diagnose lameness issues

This diagram shows the general area where most lameness problems appear in the hoof, as well as what they look like.

Photos courtesy of Jan Sheare, University of Florida
Illustration by On The Draw Graphics

Digital Dermatitis is an infectious disease that develops in the skin around the heels. This cow also has significant heel erosion on both claws.



Heel Erosion occurs when the normally smooth bulb of the heel becomes pitted and ridged



Foot Rot is a mixed bacterial infection of the inter-digital skin. It generally includes swelling of the whole foot and lesions in the inter-digital skin



Toe Abscess forms beneath the sole at the toe. It usually is caused by white-line disease at the toe, or is secondary to a toe ulcer.



White-Line Separation or abscesses can occur anywhere along the white line on either claw. However, 80% are found in the area circled here on the outside hind claw. In cows with thin soles, white-line separations can occur in toe area.

Sole Ulcers can occur on the inner side of both hind claws, but they occur most commonly in the outside hind claws.

