**THE DUTCH 5 STEP METHOD**

**(Manual)**



1. **Trim toe length to approximately 7.5cm (appropriate length in average Holstein) and correct toe angle**
* Measure from front wall just below hairline to toe tip and cut perpendicular to the sole using pincers (squares the toe)
* For hind feet, start with medial claw while for fore feet start with lateral claw
* In severely overgrown toes this may not be possible and trimming should be done to lower level for later repetition of the procedure to allow for a gradual return to normal conformation (otherwise this may cause a drastic shift in balance for the cow and cause further injury)



1. **Match the untrimmed claw**
2. **REMODELLING - Dish the soles**
* Trim the soles using a hoof knife such that the lateral surface is flattened and the medial surfaces are made concave around the axial groove (using a hoof knife trim 1/3 off the weight bearing claw and ¼ off the other)
* The knife is stroked down the claw and away from the operator with the foot resting on the operator’s knee for stabilization
* Be careful not to cut too deep i.e. just until the white line becomes visible (noted by excessive softness distinguishable from the rest of the sole)
* Measure the level of the sole using a flat surface (eg. Hoof knife handle) to ensure each claw is flat and even with the other)



1. **Relieve weight off painful claw**
* Any pathology must be attended to now
* Trim around abscesses (drain afterwards and treat appropriately) and lesions
1. **Remove loose/under-run horn and hard ridges**
* Using a rasp shave down the sole until smooth



**Bear the following 5 principles in mind:**

* Correct toe overgrowth to correct toe angle
* Spare the heel, leave sole thickness
* Allow the walls to bear most of the weight, taking weight off the sole ulcer site
* Remove weight from the painful claws
* Remove dead/diseased horn

*\*\* Begin with the weight bearing/overgrown claw (usually has more pathology and is bigger)*

*\*\* Spare the heel*

*\*\* Power tools such as the Merlin and Grinders may be used in steps 3, 4 and 5*