Hairy warts aka Papilomatous Interdigital Dermatitis

Dairy cattle can also get a condition called Papilomatous Interdigital Dermatitis, commonly known as hairy heel warts. Hairy heel warts or interdigital dermatitis is an infection that occurs mostly in dairy cows, producing inﬂamed, red lesions on the interdigital skin of the hoof. Hairy heel warts are thought to be caused by strains of the anaerobic bacteria Treponema. These bacteria thrive in muddy, dirty, and damp conditions. When foot warts are observed, the best way to treat them is with a footbath or a topical spray containing several remedies. Antibiotics such as oxytetracycline or lincomycin are preferred by many veterinarians, although some people still choose to use formalin as a treatment for foot warts. Formalin use is highly discouraged due to the carcinogenic properties of the chemical. Some producers choose to apply a powder form of one of the antibiotics and wrap the feet of animals afﬂicted with heel warts, but this may be too time-consuming for large dairy operations. Cleaning the aisles and stalls of the cow barn will also help to alleviate the problems that the manure and mud can cause to the hoof, and prevent further infections of heel warts.