Foot rot in cattle.

Hoof rot in cattle is caused by the bacteria Fusobacterium necophorum. These are anaerobic bacteria that thrive in muddy, damp conditions. Hoof rot can be characterized by a variety of symptoms. The animal will most likely exhibit some degree of lameness. Other symptoms may include a foul smelling discharge, reddened tissue above the hoof, and possibly swelling of the hoof and spreading of the toes. Treatment for hoof rot in dairy cattle consists of treatment with systemic antibiotics that will not interfere with milking and do not have a milk withdrawal time. The key to treating and preventing hoof rot in cattle is by keeping the living quarters as clean as possible, by regular hoof trimming, and through the use of footbaths. Typically, copper sulfate is used in footbaths to harden the hoof and adjacent tissue, making it more difﬁcult for bacterial infection to become established. Oral feeding of increase levels of biotin and zinc may harden the hoof tissue as well.