

# CASE STUDY

## SIMPLIFYING HOOF BATH HANDLING

*Caprock Dairy took hoof bath handling off their plate*



**HOOFSTRONG**

Managing and maintaining hoof baths was just a part of everyday work at Caprock Dairy in Muleshoe, Texas.

“Hoof baths were something we’ve always used,” says Cody Kirby, managing partner. “The experts out there said this is what you need to do to keep cows healthy, and we were just trying to find the simplest system out there.”

Caprock Dairy is a family-owned, 11,500-head operation across two locations in Texas. Spring and summer seasons can be dry, which minimizes digital dermatitis cases. However, a wet winter season can lead to hairy heel warts and soft feet.

### HOOF BATH TRIAL AND ERROR

In the past, the dairy tried using traditional hoof baths and manual sprayers. However, each system had its drawbacks that kept Kirby searching for a better solution.

“The manual sprayers never seemed to put enough product on the cow,” Kirby says. “We continued to fight issues with lameness. It wasn’t working for us.”

Traditional hoof baths required the crew to handle chemicals, which demanded training and personal protective equipment (PPE).

“The old hoof baths required us moving chemicals like formaldehyde and copper sulfate from a barrel to a tote to the bath,” he explains. “There’s always the risk of the chemicals getting into the crew’s eyes or them breathing fumes. You had to get training, then wear PPE — goggles, masks and aprons. It just wasn’t something I wanted the guys to deal with on the dairy when they could have been focused on the cows.”



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## AUTOMATION THAT WORKS

About six years ago, Caprock installed a HoofStrong automated hoof bath at one location. The operation ripped out the old concrete bath and chose a fully customized system that was installed and maintained by Specialty Sales, LLC.

“The most appealing thing about the system was the lack of labor required by our team. We liked the design and decided to try it out,” Kirby says.

The HoofStrong system adds the right amount of chemical automatically and can easily switch between solutions for specific hoof care programs. Caprock Dairy uses HoofStrong LQA™ copper and zinc solution in the automated bath for the solution’s hoof hardening benefits. When it’s time to switch solutions, Specialty Sales provides on-site, OSHA-compliant handling of chemicals.

As a result, Caprock Dairy is able to focus their crew on other aspects of the dairy. The original HoofStrong system worked so well that another was installed at the dairy’s second location.

“We don’t even touch it. We don’t adjust stuff,” Kirby says. “We just call the company if we, say, get a rain spell and want to run the bath an extra day. The system was able to make my crew’s day go easier, and no one had to come into contact with chemicals.”



## HOOF BATH SOLUTION SAFETY TIPS

1. Always review the product label and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for the selected hoof bath chemical solution.
2. Follow all product label directions for handling and mixing. Hoof baths containing formaldehyde must fall within the safety guidelines established by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).
3. Handling hoof bath solution — including mixing and disposal — often requires personal protective equipment (PPE). Handling formalin or formaldehyde can require respirators, skin protection and goggles. Employees also should be trained on proper PPE removal and storage.
4. Dispose of hoof bath solution properly.

# MAKE HOOF BATH MANAGEMENT EASY

Contact us today for a free consultation:

1-888-800-5898  
Hoofstrong.com

