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THERMAL SOCKS**  
WITH EVERY ORDER WHILE  
STOCKS LAST THROUGHOUT  
MAY 2011

## Agri-Mat for dairy

- Quicker cow flow!
- Less lameness!
- Healthy cows produce more milk!

# AGRI-MAT®



0800-686-124





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KURA AGK 1L

# AGRI-MAT

Kura stand-off cow yard

Improved cow flow! Less stress! More milk!



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# AGRI-MAT

Kura feedpad



KURA AGK IL

No pugging! Less lameness! Ask for the results.



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# AGRI-MAT

Wingflex bedding



WINGFLEX AND ERGOBOARD

Ultimate comfort! Increased lying time!



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# AGRI-MAT

Kura slat mats for herd homes



KURA-S SLATMATS

No more straw needed! Less lameness!



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# AGRI-MAT

Kura entry and exit mats

KURA AGK 1L

Reduced hoof wear! Less lameness!



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# AGRI-MAT

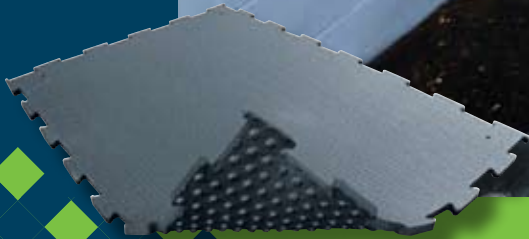
Ergomilk platform mats

Less slippage! Less noise! More milk!





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KURA AGK 1L

# AGRI-MAT

Kura herringbone platform matting

Hugely improved cow flow = faster milking times!



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**AGRI-MAT**  
Comfortzone pit matting



COMFORTZONE

Reduced pain! Save your back and legs.





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# AGRI-MAT

Cowtrax for road crossings

COW-TRAX – lightweight synthetic mat

Happy motorists! Happy council!



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**SUPERBUY**  
**SUREFOOT MAT**  
1.5m x 1.0m x 23mm  
**\$101.20**  
INCLUDING GST



**AGRI-MAT**  
Calf trailer mats



SFM23 –  
can be cable-tied together

**More grip! Less stress! Less injuries!**



# Soft rubber matting will reduce lameness in dairy cows

Lameness is a major problem for the dairy industry. The number of lame cows in New Zealand is at an all-time high and lame cows will have a significant impact on a herd's productivity and performance. Now is the time to act and beat the problem.

A lame cow produces less milk, has an increased calving interval, is twice as likely to be culled and takes time as well as money to sort out.

With direct and indirect costs associated with the condition, an average lame cow can cost over \$1000.

In a recent study, milk yield fell by 570 litres per cow affected with a solar ulcer and by 370 litres for one with white line disease. This is on top of the welfare implications. It also reduces staff morale from having these lame animals.

## Lameness factors

Poor cow flow is a major cause of lameness. For example, tight turns can cause white line disease due to shearing forces placed on the foot by turning. This is particularly prevalent at the parlour exit where cows tend to drive each other or be driven.

While cubicle comfort and safety are critical to effective dairy housing, adapting the surface in other areas such as walkways and parlours can also pay dividends. A soft rubber floor in the parlour ensures that cows can turn sharply without causing pressure or abrasion to the hoof wall.

Equally, covering main walkways in rubber can have a dramatic impact on lameness levels, with farm trials showing an improvement of 70% in some of the most common causes – digital dermatitis, double sole, pressure sores and claw lesions. Not only does the occurrence of damage decline, but also the intensity.

Installing rubber can instantly upgrade an older parlour where the concrete has become worn and slippery.



## Sole ulcer

Due to softening of the horn allowing trauma and damage to the tissues in the foot. Poor cubicles, long standing times and poor cow tracks all increase the risk of solar ulcers. Long toes

exacerbate ulcers by pushing weight to the back of the foot.

**Signs:** Often severely lame cow, raw tissue exposed and extreme pain. Can progress to serious deeper infections if left untreated. Looks like a hole in the sole.

**Treatment:** Pare sole around the ulcer to remove pressure from the granulation tissue and expose any underrun horn. Block the other claw to reduce weight bearing on affected claw.

**Prevention:** Provide the best environment to increase lying times and improve cow flow. Use rubber matting in holding yards, entries and exits, and any other areas where cows are spending time and walking on concrete. Cow tracks and gateways should be free of stones. Diet should optimise horn growth. Supplements, such as Biotin, have been used with some success to help horn quality.



## Bruising of the sole

Due to pressure on sole corium leading to damage of this tissue. Risk factors are long standing times, hard surfaces, thin soles

and other factors that reduce support of the pedal bone, e.g. calving causes relaxation of ligaments as well as loosening of attachment at laminae. Heifers often have smaller fat pads leading to reduced cushioning, so these are high risk animals at calving. Bruises can lead to solar ulcers if left untreated.

**Treatment:** Soft bedding as pressure encourages growth. Fragmented sole will need a block.

**Prevention:** Use of rubber matting in high use areas reduces the pressure on the sole. Rubber matting will hugely improve the quality of walking surfaces (particularly after trimming) and lying surfaces for freshly calved animals.



## White line disease

Caused by shearing forces on the foot and pressure on the white line. Often nutritional and vascular factors mean the white line is poorer quality and lacks

strength to prevent trauma. Tight turns in housing and parlours often increase incidence. Common in animals with thin soles and in extensive grazing units where cows walk a long way on tracks.

**Signs:** Often lateral claw of hindfoot affected. Cattle stand trying to bear weight on the unaffected medial claw. Presentation can be: pus from coronary band at skin/horn junction; tract running from white line or bursts out at heel; skin above coronary band tender, puffy and inflamed suggesting pedal joint infected; retroarticular involvement (behind pedal bone) with tenderness, swelling, erythema above coronary band at heel bulb. Pus builds up +/- gas. Other heel bulb okay.

**Treatment:** Pare out and follow all tracts as far as they extend, including the overlying wall. Ensure drainage of whole cavity. Check for infection of deeper structures. Block other claw for complicated lesions. Antibiotics may be indicated to protect underlying structures and reduce infection in the skin.

**Prevention:** Use rubber matting in entries and exits of milking sheds. Reduce standing times. Don't rush cows on tracks and space them in collection yards.

