

## ASSIGNMENT 216 TASK 2 FOOT DIPS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOT DIPS

A Foot dip is a very simple form of biosecurity that helps prevent the potential spread of disease. Organisms have the potential to survive for several days or weeks in the dirt stuck to the bottom of your shoes. Foot dips can eliminate these organisms.

Depending on the amount of traffic on your farm, it may be necessary to have more than one foot dip. Be sure that materials are provided at every footbath. Do not share scrub brushes between separate foot dips. There are several recommended disinfectants to use in foot dips.

Most disinfectants can be ordered from your local feed store or online. Remember, some disinfectants may be inactivated by sunlight so be sure to follow directions on the label carefully on how to mix and maintain an active disinfectant.



### MATERIALS FOR A FOOT DIP

- Long handle scrub brush
- "Fake grass" or a synthetic bristled doormat
- Hose for mixing new batches of disinfectants
- Tray with short sides (ex. litter pan). Depending on the location and/or type of disinfectant used, you may want to have a lid for the tray to prevent contamination or inactivation of the disinfectant.

### SETTING UP A FOOT DIP

It may be a good idea to set the foot dip up on a solid surface, such as concrete, bricks, or cement blocks to prevent mud around the foot dip area. A solid surface can be swept or washed down to eliminate the buildup of dirt that can pollute your foot dip. Mud quickly pollutes your foot dip, making it useless in providing protection. Location is the most important key in setting up your foot dip. Select a location where everyone who comes onto your farm must pass through.

- Place container in selected location.
- Cut mat to fit inside the container.
- Mix disinfectant according to label and add to container.
- Hang long handled brush within reach.
- Post footbath directions at eye level explaining how to use foot dip.

### MAINTAINING A FOOT DIP

Make sure to maintain a "clean" foot dip. Foot dips should be changed and cleaned periodically. How often you clean your foot dip depends on how much foot traffic you have on your farm. On average, foot dips require weekly cleaning. The empty container and mat should be scrubbed with a brush and rinsed thoroughly. Next, add fresh disinfectant and place the mat back into the container. Do not empty the foot dip in an area where the foot dip is used so that a dry area around the foot dip can be maintained. Don't forget to post directions near foot dips instructing users how to correctly wash footwear.

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1. What is a foot dip?
2. What should you not share between separate foot dips?
3. What can cause disinfectants to be deactivated?
4. List three materials needed for a foot dip.
5. Why might a foot dip need a lid?
6. What types of surfaces should a foot dip be set up on?
7. On average when should foot dips be cleaned?
8. Where should you not empty a foot dip?