

# CLEANING & DISINFECTING FOOTWEAR

## Disease Prevention for Beef Cattle Producers

Cleaning and disinfecting footwear can minimize costly disease risks on and off the farm by following proper procedures.



### When to Clean & Disinfect Footwear

- ✓ When leaving or entering different areas that contain livestock
- ✓ After contact with sick animals
- ✓ When footwear is visibly dirty

### Key Principles

- ✓ Clean surfaces prior to disinfection
- ✓ Use the right disinfectant product
- ✓ Read the product label before use
- ✓ Give the disinfectant time to work

### How to Clean & Disinfect Footwear



1

**Set up a designated footwear washing location.** Place all supplies (e.g., detergent, water source, disinfectant) in this area.



2

**Rinse off all visible debris.** Many disinfectants will not be effective if dirt and manure are present.



3

**Wash boots thoroughly with soap or detergent solution.** Use a scrub brush to ensure the soles are cleaned.



4

**Rinse boots thoroughly.** Disinfectants may be inactivated by soaps and detergents.



5

**Apply disinfectant solution to boot surfaces.** Let the solution sit on boot surfaces for the contact time recommended on the product label.

### Using & Selecting Disinfectants

1. **Read** the product label to determine which disease-causing organisms the disinfectant is effective against and for accurate mixing directions.
2. **Prepare** disinfectant solutions as directed, as many lose efficacy over time.
3. **Leave** boots in contact with disinfectant for the specified time as directed on the product label.
4. **Replace** disinfectant in boot baths daily. If traffic levels or dirt and debris are high, replace more frequently.

When selecting disinfectants, read product labels to choose an effective product. In general:

**Oxidizing agents** (e.g., hydrogen peroxide) are strong, broad spectrum disinfectants that are cost-effective, have a short contact time and are environmentally friendly and safe for footwear.

**Chlorine compounds** (e.g., hypochlorite) are cost-effective broad spectrum disinfectants with varying contact times. Because they can damage footwear, thorough rinsing is required.

Adapted from The Center for Food Security and Public Health