



October 30, 2015

Vantage Dairy Supplies, LLC 799 W. 200 N. Paul, ID 83347

Dear Mr. Marty Van Tassell:

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you and your company on a research project designed to evaluate the impact of dairy cow hoof health on milk production and cow well-being. Furthermore, we are excited to learn more about your foot bath product, Advantage<sup>TM</sup>, and test its effectiveness in comparison to our current foot bath treatment, which is copper sulfate. We understand your interest in comparing your product to formaldehyde; however, as a university entity, we cannot authorize the use of formaldehyde for foot baths on the Washington State University Knott Dairy Center. Please consider the following concerns associated with formaldehyde:

- ➤ Humans exposed to formaldehyde levels above 0.1 parts per million (ppm) in the air may experience coughing, wheezing, nausea, and skin irritation.
- > The International Agency for Research on Cancer has listed formaldehyde as a human carcinogen.
- An increased risk of death due to Leukemia has been documented in workers that were subjected to formaldehyde on a routine basis.

Given the above health concerns that have been documented in humans, we cannot assume the risk of exposing the Washington State University Knott Dairy Center employees, including student workers, to this hazardous chemical. Additionally, any potential health consequences of exposing dairy cattle to formaldehyde are not well understood thus far.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to collaborate on this hoof health research project. We hope the information provided in this letter will help you understand our position on using formaldehyde on the Washington State University Knott Dairy Center. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions or concerns. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely

Dr. Amber Adams-Progar

WSU Dairy Management Specialist

John Swain

WSU Knott Dairy Center Manager

NIH National Cancer Institute. 2011. Formaldehyde and Cancer Risk. http://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/substances/formaldehyde/formaldehyde-fact-sheet (Accessed 28 October 2015).