The health of transition cows

**Dry period lameness**

- All cows were gait scored weekly during the dry period, and 45% of cows ($n = 455$) were trimmed before dry-off

  - More cows became lame than cured during the dry period
  - Hoof trimming before dry-off was protective in primiparous cows but not in multiparous cows

- Cows assessed around dry-off
  - Sound 55%
  - Lame 45%
  - Became Lame 50%
  - Always sound 50%
  - Cured 36%
  - Chronically lame 64%

**Feeding behavior and diseases**

- Cows ($n = 80$) from 5 farms were video recorded for 90 min after fresh feed delivery to evaluate feeding behaviour

- Cows diagnosed with both metritis and ketosis postpartum spent less time feeding before calving than healthy and cows sick with one condition.

**Standing behavior and sole lesions**

- Cows with either no claw lesion ($n=232$) versus those with sole lesions ($n=24$) at peak lactation

  - Cows that stood more in the first 2 wk after calving were more likely to develop sole lesions at peak lactation
  - Cows developing sole lesions had 16 times higher odds of becoming severely lame postpartum

**Take home messages:**

- There is a high incidence of lameness during the dry period
- Cows that spend less time feeding prepartum have higher risk of becoming sick
- Cows that stand more after calving are more likely to develop sole lesions