**REASONS FOR PRACTICING HOOF TRIMMING:**

* The hooves, if not trimmed, can cause problems to the animal
* Overgrown hooves make walking difficult and predispose the animal to other foot problems such as foot rot; especially if animals are in damp, muddy environments
* Bad hooves make walking painful and competing for feed difficult. This may cause sheep and goats to go off feed and stop exercising.
* Animals with overgrown hooves are also very susceptible to joint/tendon problems, and arthritis.
* Permanent damage can result if the foot is left neglected for extended periods of time.
* Breeding bucks/rams place great stress on their hind legs and feet during mounting. If they are in pain from bad feet, they will refuse to mate thus reducing reproductive rates in a flock. Thus, hoof trimming is an essential part of and livestock management system.
* Flocks should be checked for hoof growth on a regular basis.
* Signs that might indicate the need to trim hooves include abnormalities in locomotion and/or animals showing signs of pain while walking.