



Farm Information Sheet

Lameness Scoring

Milk production is reduced in cows up to 5 months before lameness is noticed physically.

(Green et al, JDS 85, pp 2250-2256)

The aim is to quantify lameness for the whole herd and act if necessary.

Causes of lameness

- Nutrition
- Environment
- Disease
- Husbandry

Signs

- Head nodding while walking
- Arched back
- Repeatedly lifting one foot or alternate feet when standing still
- Shortened stride
- Sinking of either pin bone while walking

Benchmark

Average number of lame cows per UK herd is 20%.

Method

- Always use the same person to carry out lameness scoring
- Cows should walk in single file on well lit non-slip surface, e.g. after leaving the milking parlour
- View from side and behind
- Score twice a year

Scoring

No	Not lame
?	Not walking easily, but not obviously lame
Yes	Lame

When treating lame cows, record which leg is lame and describe the lesion.

Sampling procedure

Not every cow in herd needs to be done.

<i>HERD SIZE</i>	<i>SAMPLE SIZE</i>
50	40
100	70
150	90
200	110
250	120
300	130

