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Animal Care

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DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA

Quick Guide to Hock, Knee and Neck Scoring

Hock Scoring

Condition of the hocks can be an important indicator of the abrasiveness of the resting surface, stall design, and cow comfort.

Score only the tarsal joint but not the point of the hock.

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Knee Scoring

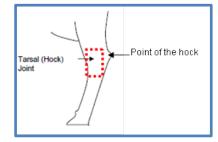
Condition of the knees is an important indicator of cow comfort and the hardness of the resting surface floor.

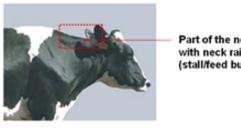
Score only the front of the knee (i.e. carpal joint).

Neck Scoring

Condition of the neck is an important indicator of whether the feed bunk/neck rail/chain is at the correct height/length and that the feed is consistently within easy reach for the animal.

Score only the neck crest (ears to withers).





Part of the neck in contact with neck rail or chain (stall/feed bunk)

Hock Scoring Chart:





0 = No swelling. 1 No hair is missing, some hair loss or broken hair.

Score 'A' Acceptable

1 = No swelling or minor swelling (< 1 cm). Bald area on hock.



2 = Medium swelling (1 to 2.5 cm) and/or lesion or scab on bald area.

3 = Major swelling (> 2.5 cm). May have bald area/lesion.

Score 'R' Requires corrective action





Knee Scoring Chart:

Score 'A' Acceptable

0 = No swelling. No hair is missing, some hair loss or broken hair.



1 = No swelling. Bald area.



Score 'R' Requires corrective action

2 = Broken skin **or** scab **and/or** swelling (< 2.5 cm). May have bald area.



3 = Major swelling (≥ 2.5 cm). May have bald area/lesion.



Neck Scoring Chart:

Score 'A' Acceptable



0 = No swelling. No hair is missing, some hair loss or broken hair.



1 = No swelling. Bald area visible.



Score 'R' Requires corrective action

2 = Broken skin or scab and/or swelling. May have bald area.