





# Mobility score

Category of score				Score	Description of cow behaviour	Suggested actions
<b>Good mobility</b>						
				<b>0</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walks with even weight-bearing and rhythm on all four feet, with a flat back</li> <li>• Long, fluid strides possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action needed</li> <li>• Routine (preventative) foot trimming when/if required</li> <li>• Record mobility at next scoring session</li> </ul>
<b>Imperfect mobility</b>						
				<b>1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steps uneven (rhythm or weight-bearing) or strides shortened; affected limb or limbs not immediately identifiable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could benefit from routine (preventative) foot trimming when/if required</li> <li>• Further observation recommended</li> </ul>
<b>Impaired mobility</b>						
				<b>2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uneven weight-bearing on a limb that is immediately identifiable and/or obviously shortened strides (usually with an arch to the centre of the back)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lamé and likely to benefit from treatment</li> <li>• Foot should be lifted to establish the cause of lameness before treatment</li> <li>• Should be attended to as soon as practically possible</li> </ul>
<b>Severely impaired mobility</b>						
				<b>3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unable to walk as fast as a brisk human pace (cannot keep up with the healthy herd)</li> <li>• Lamé leg easy to identify – limping; may barely stand on lamé leg/s; back arched when standing and walking</li> <li>• Very lame</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This cow is very lame and requires urgent attention, nursing and further professional advice</li> <li>• Examine as soon as possible</li> <li>• Cow will benefit from treatment</li> <li>• Cow should not be made to walk far and kept on a straw yard or at grass</li> <li>• In the most severe cases, culling may be the only possible solution</li> </ul>

## How to score your herd

If you haven't scored your herd for a while, information and film clips can be viewed on the AHDB website: [ahdb.org.uk/dairy](https://ahdb.org.uk/dairy)

### In general

- Check your herd, ideally, at least once a month
- Choose a time and a place which will allow you to observe cows, ideally on a hard (i.e. concrete) non-slip surface. Monitor each cow individually, allowing them to make between 6–10 uninterrupted strides. Watch the cow from the side and the rear, and, if possible, ensure the cow turns a corner as part of her test
- Record the identities of cows scoring 2 or 3 and schedule treatment within 48 hours for score 2 cows and as soon as possible for score 3 cows. Check regularly to ensure treatment is working
- Keep a tally of cows that are score 0 and 1
- If you are uncertain about the exact score of a cow, make repeat observations. If you are still unsure, examine her feet

### Key benefits of scoring

- Every cow is regularly assessed for the early signs of poor mobility, prompting foot trimming and action lists
- Mobility trends can be monitored to identify new problems at an early stage
- Provision of figures for benchmarking performance
- General foot health awareness is increased
- Motivates farm staff to improve herd mobility and therefore overall herd health

### Further information

For more information visit [ahdb.org.uk/healthyfeetprogramme](https://ahdb.org.uk/healthyfeetprogramme) or email [healthyfeet@ahdb.org.uk](mailto:healthyfeet@ahdb.org.uk)

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