





Mobility scorecard

Good mobility	Score	Description of cow behaviour	Suggested actions
	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walks with even weight-bearing and rhythm on all four feet, with a flat back • Long, fluid strides possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action needed • Routine (preventative) foot trimming when/if required • Record mobility at next scoring
Imperfect mobility	Score	Description of cow behaviour	Suggested actions
	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps uneven (rhythm or weight-bearing) or strides shortened; affected limb or limbs not immediately or consistently identifiable during period of observation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could benefit from monitoring and foot inspection when and if required • Further observation recommended
Impaired mobility	Score	Description of cow behaviour	Suggested actions
	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uneven weight-bearing on a limb that is immediately and consistently identifiable and/or obviously shortened strides (possibly with an arch to the centre of the back) • Signs used to identify affected limbs include: Uneven dewclaw descent, uneven rhythm of strides, uneven leg speed, shortened strides, head nod or head bob and a lowered head carriage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely to benefit from examination and treatment • Foot should be lifted to identify if lesion(s) are present before treatment • New cases should be attended to within 48 hours
Severely impaired mobility	Score	Description of cow behaviour	Suggested actions
	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These cows have an identifiable uneven weight-bearing, as for score 2, and their normal walking speed is affected (slower) • Unable to walk as fast as the most mobile cow in the herd due to severely impaired mobility • Identifying a painful limb may become difficult if and when multiple limbs are involved • The cow is likely to fall behind the healthy herd, or stop for rests, if walking over a reasonable distance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This cow requires urgent attention, nursing and further professional advice • Examine as soon as possible • Cow will benefit from treatment • Cow should not be made to walk far and kept on a straw yard or at grass • In severe or chronic cases with a poor prognosis from a vet, culling may be the only possible solution

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 Dairy YouTube: [youtube.com/@AHBBDairy](https://www.youtube.com/@AHBBDairy)

In general

- Check your herd ideally, at least once every two weeks for screening, with a recorded score 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 all cows and their mobility scores
- When it is challenging to record all cows, focus on recording the identities of score 2 or 3 cows and schedule treatment within 48 hours for new score 2 cows and immediately for new score 3 cows. In these instances, keep a tally of cows that are score 0 and 1, or verify the number of cows in each group
- Check regularly to ensure treatment is working
- 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

- Early detection and prompt effective treatment (EDPET) applied consistently and well to every cow will improve response to treatment. This reduces the rates of chronically or severely lame cows over time
- 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 or email healthyfeet@ahdb.org.uk

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