

Your Farm LTD Work Instruction

P 3.6 LAME COWS

- Lameness management is a top priority for animal welfare and good production.
- It always takes a lot longer to get the cows in when there are lame cows.
- The care of lame cows is the responsibility of everyone who works on this farm.

Prevention

- Most lameness can be avoided by allowing cows to move to the shed at their own pace, and by ensuring concrete surfaces do not have stones left on them.
- Lameness is a problem on this farm in the wet weather.
- Ensure races are well maintained so water can easily run off either side.
- Walk cows at a relaxed pace. They should all have their heads down while walking.

Identification and separation

- The person who gets the cows in should note the numbers of any slow or lame cows.
- Those lame cows are entered on Protrack and separated from the main herd.

Examination and Treatment

- Most lame cows can be easily treated - the key is early treatment the first day they are noticed lame.
 - Each lame cow is to be headbailed and their feet picked up and examined the first day they are noticed.
1. Lift foot and clean.
 2. Examine the foot for swelling.
 3. Check for damage or stones between the hooves.
 4. Scrape the bottom surface of the hoof with the sharp hoof knife.
 5. Cut away or trim any rot until none remains.
 6. Try to trim edges so that material is not forced into the trimmed area when the cow walks.
 7. Treat any swollen, reddened or hot hooves with penicillin.
 8. Recheck any cows not responding quickly to treatment.
 9. Separate lame cows from the main herd.
 10. Run them close to the milking shed, feed them well, and milk them once a day.
 12. Do not leave the problem until it becomes a crisis.
 13. Record all animals examined or treated for lameness.