

MOBILITY SCORING (THE PROCESS)

Where to do it?

- Exit of parlour? Cow track when at grass? It is most beneficial to stand somewhere that will not affect cow flow, i.e. so cows walk past naturally (most commonly done after cows have been milked or as they are coming in from pasture).
- Ideally a hard, even, flat surface (non slip) i.e. solid floor as opposed to slats (**NB** if scoring on slats ensure good grip i.e. sawdust over them).
- Good lighting is necessary to be able to physically see and identify the cows.
- It is ideal to observe 6-10 strides for each cow.
- Try to ensure there is a side and rear view of the animal.
- It is best practice to allow cows to flow in single file, at their own pace.

Identification and recording of cows

- Note the ID of any cow showing signs of score 2 or 3.
- Can cows be easily identified? i.e. management tags or freeze brands.
- If necessary clip FB numbers or keri-comb.
- Scoring sheets.
- Clip board.
- Pens (more than one).
- Pencil (this will write on wet sheets).

Post scoring

- Draw up an action list of cows for treatment i.e. score 2 and 3 cows (**NB** for the first time the cow list may be long).
- Set a deadline for all cows identified as lame to be treated.
- Monitor progress of animals.