
















# Lameness Scoring

Score	Walking speed	Stride	Weight bearing	Backline	Head
<p><b>0</b></p> <p><b>Walks evenly</b></p> <p><b>No action required</b></p> <p>No action required – this cow is normal.</p>	Confident. Similar walking speed to a person. Maintains position in the herd.	Long, even and regular. Rear foot placement matches front foot placement.	Evenly placed and weight bearing when standing and walking.	Straight (level) at all times.	Held in line or slightly below the backline and steady when walking.
					

Score	Walking speed	Stride	Weight bearing	Backline	Head
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Walks unevenly</b></p> <p><b>Minor action required</b></p> <p>Record and keep an eye on her – some cows normally walk unevenly.</p>	Not normally affected, should easily maintain position in the herd.	May have uneven stride and/or rhythm. Rear foot placement may miss front foot placement.	May stand or walk unevenly but difficult to identify which leg/s are affected.	Straight when standing, may be slightly arched when walking.	May have slight bob and or may be held lower than normal.
					

Score	Walking speed	Stride	Weight bearing	Backline	Head
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Lame</b></p> <p><b>Action required</b></p> <p>This cow is lame and needs to be reported, drafted and examined within 24 hours</p>	May be slower than normal, may stop, especially when turning a corner.	Shortened strides rear foot placement falls short of front foot placement.	Uneven – lame leg can be identified.	Often arched when standing and walking.	Bobs up and down when walking.
					

Score	Walking speed	Stride	Weight bearing	Backline	Head
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Very lame</b></p> <p><b>Urgent action required</b></p> <p>This cows is very lame and needs urgent attention. Draft and examine as soon as possible.</p>	Very slow, stops often and will lie down in paddock. Cannot keep up with the healthy herd.	Shortened and very uneven. Non lame leg will swing through quickly.	Lame leg easy to identify - 'limping'; may barely stand on lame leg/s.	Arched when standing and walking.	Large head movements up and down when walking.
	