

HYGIENE SCORING CARD

SCORE

LEGS

UDDERS

FLANK & UPPER LEG

1



2



3



4



INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE HYGIENE SCORING CARD

This hygiene scoring system has been developed to use on farm as a trouble shooting tool - to quantify hygiene on a farm, and as a monitor - to assess improvements in hygiene management.

How Many Cows?

Aim to score all cows in a small (<100 cows) herd or at least 25% of the cows in each pen in a large (>100 cows) herd. Score in each of three zones - lower leg, udder and upper leg and flank zones. Score each zone separately. Scores 3 and 4 show a level of poor hygiene which is unacceptable, therefore calculate the proportion of scores 3 and 4 for each zone scored.

Scoring Guide

Lower leg

The scoring system aims to track the amount of manure present and the distance it extends proximally up the leg. Score 1 is little or no manure above the coronary band. Score 2 is minor splashing above the coronary band. Score 3 is distinct plaques of manure above the coronary band, but with leg hair visible. Score 4 is a solid plaque of manure extending high up the leg.

Typically stanchion / tie stall cows have clean legs and freestall cows have a high degree of leg contamination from walking through manure filled alleyways.

Udder

Observe the udder from the rear and the side if possible. The presence of visible manure near the teats is a risk factor for udder infection. Score 1 is no manure present. Score 2 is minor splashing of manure near the teats. Score 3 is distinct plaques of manure on the lower half of the udder and Score 4 is confluent plaques of manure encrusted on and around the teats.

Manure may be transferred to the udder either by lying on a filthy surface or by resting the udder on a manure contaminated lower leg.

Upper leg and Flank

Score 1 is no manure. Score 2 is minor splashing of manure. Score 3 is distinct plaques of manure with hair showing through, and Score 4 is confluent plaques of manure.

This zone maybe contaminated either by lying on a filthy surface as would occur in a poorly managed stanchion barn stall, or by a manure encrusted tail swishing around the rump area.

Benchmarks

Benchmarks from 20 herds visited in Wisconsin suggest the following target levels of hygiene:

Farm Type	Proportion of Scores 3 and 4 in each zone		
	Lower Leg	Udder	Upper Leg and Flank
Freestall Mean	54	20	17
Best Zone Score	24	5	6
Stanchion Mean	25	18	26
Best Zone Score	9	0	5