

COW WELFARE ASSESSMENT – MANAGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Farm ID: (province-DHI 5 digit e.g. ON10020)

Type: TS or FS (choose 1 answer) → Q4, Q5 and Q7 = fill only for FS

Date: (yyyy-mm-dd)

Observer: (first name, last name)

N.B.: Animal-based measures/in-barn checklist/management questionnaire refer to the group of high-production cows

→ Sign letter for permission to access DHI database

SECTION 1 – ACCOMODATION AND HOUSING

1.1. STALL DESIGN (no question)

1.2. SPACE ALLOWANCE (no question)

1.3 STALL MANAGEMENT**A) STALL BASE****Q1.** If mat or mattresses are used in the stalls (Fill only if answer B or C at **Q110** in the checklist), please ask:

(a) Brand (main type):

(b) Year of installation (main type): (yyyy)

B) STALL BEDDING (no question)

C) QUALITY (DRYNESS) (no question)

C) STALL MANAGEMENT**Q2.** How often do you rake out stalls and remove cow patties?

- A. Once a day
- B. More than once a week
- C. Once a week
- D. Less than once a week

Q3. How often new bedding is added (organic bedding and/or sand)?

- A. Once a day
- B. More than once a week
- C. Once a week
- D. Less than once a week

1.4. PEN MANAGEMENT (STANDING AREAS)**Q4 – FS only.** How often do you flush/scrape standing areas in pens?

- A. Automatic system: nb times/day
- B. 2-3 times a day using a manual system
- C. 1 time a day using a manual system
- D. Less than 1 time per day using a manual system Specify: nb times/week

Q5 – FS only. How often do you scrape by hand standing areas in the pen that cannot be scraped automatically (e.g. cross-over alleys, in front of waterers, etc.)?

- A. 2-3 times a day
- B. 1 time a day
- C. Less than 1 time per day specify: nb times/week

1.5. MILKING PARLOR, HOLDING PENS AND TRANSFER ALLEYS TO THE MILKING PARLOR

Q6. How often do you milk per day?

- A. twice
- B. three times
- C. other specify: nb milkings/day

Q7 – FS only. How often do you flush/scrape the transfer alleys to the milking parlor (excluding holding pens)?

- A. automatic system: nb times/day
- B. 2-3 times a day using a manual system
- C. 1 time a day using a manual system
- D. Less than 1 time per day using a manual system Specify: nb times/week

SECTION 2 – FEED AND WATER

2.1. BODY CONDITION SCORING (no question)

2.2. NUTRITION AND FEED MANAGEMENT

Q8. Do you feed TMR (Total Mixed Ration)?

- A. Yes *fill Q9, Q10 and Q11, skip Q12*
- B. No *→ go to Q12*

Q9. How often do you deliver feed to cows? (does not need to be a fresh mix) *(Fill only if answer A to Q8)*

- A. 2-3 times per day or more
- B. 1 time a day
- C. Less than 1 time a day

Q10. When do you deliver feed to cows? *(Fill only if answer A to Q8)(To check if consistent schedule)*

- A. Always around milkings (before or/after)
- B. Always around milking (before or/after) and at other times (feed 3x or more)
- C. Always mid-am and/or mid-pm
- D. I do not have a consistent feeding schedule

Q11. How often do you push-up feed to cows? *(Fill only if answer A to Q8)*

- A. 2-3 times per day or more
- B. 1 time a day
- C. Less than 1 time a day (eq. to sometimes)
- D. I do not push-up feed Specify “why?”:

Q12. If you do not feed TMR *(Fill only if answer B to Q8)*, please fill the following tables about type of feed (forage and concentrate) and distribution schedule *(if no specific schedule, leave blank column time of the day)*

Forage	Type (e.g. grass, silage, hay, etc.)	Time of the day (hh:mm)
Forage 1		
Forage 2		
Forage 3		
Forage 4		
Forage 5		

Concentrate	Time of the day (hh:mm)
Concentrate 1	
Concentrate 2	
Concentrate 3	
Concentrate 4	
Concentrate 5	

2.3. WATER (no question)

SECTION 3 – HEALTH AND WELFARE MANAGEMENT**3.1. MAJOR HERD HEALTH ISSUES**

Q13. What are the three main herd health issues that concern you (Please tick all that apply and/or insert other health issues)? “such as lameness, mastitis, fertility or some other diseases”. Prompt for a 3rd answer (milk fever, Johnes, BVD, metritis, calf mortality, etc.)

Q14. Please rank these in order of the effort you put into controlling them – greatest first.

Q15. Please rank these in order of your opinion of how much they cost your business – greatest first

Q13. Health problem (Tick all that apply and/or insert other health issues)	Q14. Ranking on effort put into controlling the problem 1 = greatest	Q15. Ranking on cost to business 1 = greatest
Lameness		
Mastitis		
Fertility		
Other disease (Specify:.....)		
Other disease (Specify:.....)		
Other disease (Specify:.....)		

3.2 LAMENESS IN YOUR DAIRY HERD

Q16. How serious is the problem of lameness in your herd?

- A. Not a problem
- B. Minor problem
- C. Moderate problem
- D. Major problem

Q17. How many lame cows do you have in the herd today? (To calculate point prevalence of lameness)

(a) Nb of lame cows:

(b) Nb of cows in the herd:

Q18. How many cows have been **treated** for lameness in the last year? (**Treated** includes to treat with antibiotics, to trim, to attach a block, to take out a nail or stone etc) (Incidence of lameness)

(a) Nb of cows that were treated for lameness:

(b) Nb of cows that were in the herd:

(c) Is this figure: **AN ESTIMATE** or **FROM RECORDS**

Q19. In the past two years, have you made any management changes to deal with lameness?

- a) Yes, What was the reason _____
Nb of cows treated for lameness before you initiated the change _____
- b) No

In the following 3 (Q20-Q21) sets of questions, you will be asked to rank various issues or factors on a scale from 1 to 5. Please indicate how important you consider each one to be by ticking the appropriate box.

Q20. In your opinion, which of the following are the main causes of lameness? – Please score each factor for its importance (1 not a factor to 5 extremely important factor)

	Not important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
	1	2	3	4	5
Nutrition					
Uncomfortable stalls					
Bad floorings					
Genetic (leg/feet conformation)					
Claw infection/poor hygiene					
Other (Specify:)					

Q21. How important are the following issues resulting from lameness: (1 not at all important to 5 extremely important)

	Not important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
	1	2	3	4	5
Reduced milk production					
Pain for the cow					
Extra time spent working with lame cows					
Treatment costs					
Having to cull a cow					
Poor cow condition					
Reduced fertility					
Other (Specify:)					

Q22. In the following list which factors prevent you from treating lame cows?

Please score each factor for its importance (1 not a factor to 5 extremely important factor)

	Not important Limiting factor	Slightly important Limiting factor	Moderately important Limiting factor	Very important Limiting factor	Extremely important Limiting factor
	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of time					
Lack of skilled labor on farm					
Difficulty to get a hoof trimmer					
Difficulty identifying lame cows					
Poor foot trimming facilities on farm					
Hoof trimmer/vet too expensive					
Lack of information/knowledge					
Conflicting advice					
Other (Specify:.....)					

Q23. On average, how much money do you lose for each case of lameness (including hoof trimming, vet treatments, milk lost, etc.)?

- A. < \$100
- B. \$100-200
- C. \$200-400
- D. > \$400

Q24. How painful is lameness for a cow?

- A. Not at all painful
- B. Slightly painful
- C. Moderately painful
- D. Very painful

3.3 LAMENESS MONITORING

Q25. Do you routinely check cows to identify new lameness cases?

- A. I do not check → go to **Q27**
- B. I do visual evaluation as part of my daily routine
- C. I do visual evaluation as part of my weekly routine
- D. I do visual evaluation once in a while
- E. Specialists do that for me (vet/hoof-trimmer) → go to **Q27**

Q26. If you check routinely for lameness (Fill only if answer B, C or D to **Q25**), where and when do you do this?

(Choose one or more answer)

- A. When I walk around the barn
- B. When I feed cows
- C. When I move cows to the milking parlor
- D. When cows are exiting the milking parlor
- E. Other Specify:

Q27. What sign do you use to detect lame cows? (Choose one or more answer)

- A. When a cow limps
- B. When a cow does not want to stand up (e.g. for milking, at feeding)
- C. When a cow has a back arch
- D. Other Specify:

Q28. Do you keep record of lameness? (Choose one or more answer)

- A. All cases of lameness you detect
- B. All cases of lameness you treat for
- C. All cases of lameness the hoof-trimmer reports
- D. All cows I culled because of lameness
- E. No record

Q29. Once you have identified a lame cow, when do you decide to treat her? (Choose one answer)

- A. I treat her immediately (myself)
- B. I call in the vet/hoof-trimmer immediately
- C. I wait until hoof-trimmer/vet comes next time
- D. I wait to see if she gets better
- E. I do not treat her

3.4. CLAW HEALTH/HOOF TRIMMING**A) FOOTBATH**

Q30. How often do your cows walk through a footbath?

- A. Never → go to **Q35**
 B. nb of milkings per week

Q31. Do you have seasonal differences? I use footbaths at... (Choose one or more answer) *(If no use of footbath, answer A to Q30, leave blank)*

- A. Spring
 B. Summer
 C. Fall
 D. Winter
 E. Other Specify:.....

Q32. Which products do you use? *(If no use of footbath, answer A to Q30, leave blank)*

Days of the week	Type product 1	Concentration product 1 (%)	Type product 2 <i>(if combination of products)</i>	Concentration product 2 (%) <i>(if combination of products)</i>	Type product 3 <i>(if combination of products)</i>	Concentration product 3 (%) <i>(if combination of products)</i>
Monday						
Tuesday						
Wednesday						
Thursday						
Friday						
Saturday						
Sunday						

Q33. How often do you change contents of the footbath? *(If no use of footbath, answer A to Q30, leave blank)*

- A. At each milking
 B. Daily
 C. More than once a week
 D. Once a week
 E. Less than once a week

Q34. How many times do you refill the footbath? *(If no use of footbath, answer A to Q30, leave blank)*

- A. At each milking
 B. Daily
 C. More than once a week
 D. Once a week
 E. Less than once a week

B) HOOF-TRIMMING

Q35. What is your hoof-trimming schedule?

- A. All cows are trimmed once a year
 B. All cows are trimmed twice a year
 C. Cows are trimmed routinely Specify: every weeks
 D. I call the hoof-trimmer/I do it myself only if a cow needs it (emergency hoof-trimming)
 E. I never call the hoof-trimmer/ I never trim

Q36. Which cows do you do when you trim? (Choose one or more answer)

- A. All cows
- B. Dry-off cows (2 months before calving)
- C. Mid-lactation cows
- D. Clinically lame cows
- E. Cows with overgrown claw/bad conformation
- F. Other Specify:.....

Q37. Who does routine hoof-trimming? (Choose one or more answer)

- A. Yourself/staff certified: yes or no
- B. Hoof-trimmer certified: yes or no
- C. Vet
- G. Other Specify:.....

Q38. Who does emergency hoof-trimming? (Choose one or more answer)

- A. Yourself/staff
- B. Hoof-trimmer
- C. Vet
- D. Other Specify:.....

Q39. Do you keep records of hoof trimming?

- A. Yes
- B. No

Q40. Have you had any cases digital dermatitis (also known as strawberry footrot, hairy heel warts) diagnosed on your farm in the last 12 months?

- A. Yes
- B. No

Q41. Do you have a pedometry system on farm?

- A. Yes Specify (brand):.....
- B. No

SECTION 4 – CALVING

4.1. CALVING AREA

Q42. Where do calvings take place? (Select one or more and indicate the percentage)

- A. Individual pen:%
- B. A specially adapted calving tie-stall:%
- C. Group calving pen:%
- D. Tied in a calving pen:%
- E. Regular tie-stall:%
- F. Regular free-stall:%
- G. Other:%

Q43. Between how many calvings do you

- A. Add new bedding _____ nb of calvings
- B. Change bedding _____ nb of calvings
- C. Wash* (* washing includes the use of soap) _____ nb of calvings
- D. Disinfect** (** disinfecting includes the use of disinfectant) _____ nb calvings

Q44. What type of bedding do you mainly use in the calving area?

- A. Straw
- B. Sawdust
- C. Woodshaving
- D. Sand
- E. Other Specify:

Q45. How much bedding do you put in your calving area?

Show a ruler to the producer and note the measure in cm: cm

4.2. CALVING MONITORING

A) CHECKING CALVINGS

Q46. On average, how often is the calving area checked between the morning and the evening milking?

(Includes observations by an individual or by camera)

.....times

Q47. On average, how often is the calving area checked between the evening and the morning milkings?

(Includes observations by an individual or by camera)

.....times

Q48. Do you use calving monitoring cameras?

- A. Yes
- B. No

B) CALVING PROTOCOL

Q49. Do you have a written SOP/protocol (Standard Operation Procedure) for calving?

- A. Yes
- B. No → Go to Q52

Q50. Was this calving SOP/protocol developed in consultation with a veterinarian? *(If answer B to Q49, do not fill)*

- A. Yes
- B. No

Q51. Does this calving SOP/protocol include? (Choose one or more answers) *(If answer B to Q49, do not fill)*

- A. A method for calf pulling
- B. A method for when and how to assist cows during a difficult calving
- C. Use of gloves and lubricant
- D. Other Specify:

C) CALVING DETECTION

Q52. When do you move a cow to the calving area? (Choose **ONE** option that fits the best)

If regular free-stall or tie-stall for more than 50 % (answer E or F to Q42), do not fill

- A. At dry-off time
- B. At the start of close-up period (3 weeks before calving)
- C. When the first signs of calving are detected (e.g changes in cow behaviour, filling of udder etc.)
- D. When the water bag or the calf appears
- E. Other Specify:.....

Q53. On average, how long before calving is a cow moved in the calving area (choose the unit that fits the best)? *If regular free-stall or tie-stall for more than 50 % (answer E or F to Q42), do not fill*

Nb of hours:h

OR

Nb of days:d

Q54. On average, how long after calving is a cow moved out of the calving area (choose the unit that fits the best)? *If regular free-stall or tie-stall for more than 50 % (answer E or F to Q42), do not fill*

Nb of hours:h

OR

Nb of days:d

Q55. When do you decide to assist the calving? (Read the following choices to producer and choose one or more answers that correspond to the average management)

- A. I assist all of the calvings by pulling the calf (systematic procedure)
- B. After checking the cow and finding a problem
- C. Every time a heifer is calving
- D. Systematically at night or when nobody is going to be around for the next hours
- E. When the expected calf has high value
- F. When you suspect twins
- G. Other Specify:

Q56. How do you usually assist a difficult calving?

- A. Ropes
- B. Chains
- C. Chains and bar
- D. Jack
- E. You call the vet

Q57. When do you vaginally check for a problem (palpate the cow) at calving? (Read the following choices to producer and choose one or more answers that correspond to the average management)

- A. I always vaginally check (palpate) the cows at all calvings
- B. When the waterbag has broken and the cow has not progressed Specify: min or h (choose unit that fits best)
- C. When the cow is straining without progress for too long Specify: min or h (choose unit that fits best)
- D. When the calf's feet has been visible for too long Specify: min or h (choose unit that fits best)
- E. Suspect malpresentation
- F. Other Specify:

Q58. Do you keep written records of difficult calvings?

- A. Yes
- B. No

Q59. How serious is the problem of difficulties at calving on your farm?

- A. Not a problem (no difficulty at calving)
- B. Minor problem
- C. Moderate problem
- D. Major problem

Q60. How many cows had difficulties at calving for the past year?

(Estimate of dystocia incidence)

Nb of cows that had difficulties at calving:

Nb total of cows that calved:

(On a totally different topic...)

Q61. Do you use an analgesic, an anesthetic, a sedative or a combination of these for calf dehorning?

- A. Yes Specify product (name):
- B. No

SECTION 5 – CODE OF PRACTICES

Q62. Have you heard about the Dairy Code of Practices? *(Students will bring a copy of the Code with them)*

- A. Yes
- B. No → **Go to Q68**

Q63. How did you become aware of the Code? (Choose one or more answer) *If answer No (B.) at Q62, do not fill*

- A. Mail copy
- B. Presentation at meeting
- C. Newsletter article
- D. Other Specify:

Q64. Have you read it? *N.B. read a part of it = read, flick through = not read* *If answer No (B.) at Q62, do not fill*

- A. Yes
- B. No → **Go to Q66**

Q65. Do you think it is well done? *If answer No (B.) at Q64, do not fill*

- A. Yes
- B. No

Q66. Have you made any changes to your practices as a result of the Code?

- A. Yes Specify:
- B. No

Q67. Do you still have a copy of the Code?

- A. Yes
- B. No

Q68. Would you like us to bring you a copy of the Code?

- A. Yes
- B. No