

## ON FARM FEEDBUNK ALLEY FLOOR CLEANLINESS

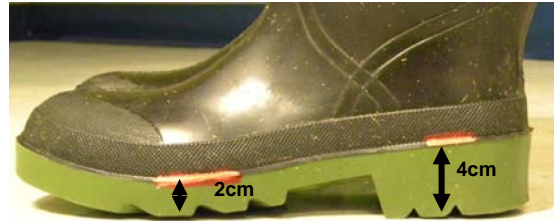
**Objective:** To assess the cleanliness of the feed alley floor

**Where:** Feed alley

**When:** Before and after scraping/flushing

**What you need:**

- One technician
- Marks on rubber boot





**Figure 1. Measure and mark the depth of the sole and heel on your rubber boot.**

**Background:** According to the codes of practice, producers must remove manure from alleys by cleaning daily. Frequent cleaning of the alleys will reduce the amount of manure on cows and reduce the amount of manure tracked into the stall and therefore improve cow comfort.

### Protocol:

1. Measure the depth of the sole and heel on your rubber boot. Place a mark at 2cm from the base of the sole which touches the ground at the front of your boot. Measure the depth of the heel on your boot and place a mark. Place the mark using liquid paper and a permanent marker (**Figure 1**).
2. **For solid flooring**, the cleanliness of the feedbunk alley floor will be scored on two separate occasions:
  - a. Approximately 20 minutes prior to scraping or flushing of the alley
  - b. Approximately 20 minutes after scraping or flushing of the alley
3. Approximately 20 minutes prior to scraping or flushing. Start at one end of the feedbunk alley and walk the entire length of the feedbunk alley.
4. After you have walked the length of the feedbunk alley, look at your boots and the level of manure that comes up around them.
5. Assign a score according to your assessment of your boots (**Table 1**).
6. Repeat steps 3 – 5 approximately 20 minutes after scraping or flushing of the alley.
7. Record the floor cleanliness in the in-barn checklist Q 119.
8. **For slatted flooring**, the cleanliness of the feedbunk alley floor will be scored at the beginning of the visit and at the end of the visit. Start at one end of the feedbunk alley and walk the entire length of the feedbunk alley. After you have walked the length of the feedbunk alley, look at your boots and the level of manure that comes up around them. Assign a score according to your assessment of your boots (**Table 1**). Record the floor cleanliness in the in-barn checklist Q 119.

**TABLE 1. FLOOR CLEANLINESS SCORING SYSTEM**

Score 0 (Clean)		Score 1 (A bit dirty)	
	none/≤ 0.5 cm manure thickness – only a film of manure on the floor		≤ 1 cm manure thickness – a fine layer of manure on the floor
Score 2 (Dirty)		Score 3 (Very Dirty)	
	1 to 3 cm manure thickness		> 3 cm manure thickness - manure comes up right up/covers the toes of your rubber boots

**TABLE 2. ASSESSMENT OF FLOOR CLEANLINESS**

Farm: Date:	Cleanliness Score
<b>Before scraping/flushing</b>	2
<b>After scraping/flushing</b>	1