

SLIPPERINESS OF FLOORING

Objective: To assess the slipperiness of the floor

Where: Exiting pen to parlour

When: Before 1st milking on the 1st visit or 2nd visit

What you need:

- One technician
- Counter

Background: Floors with good traction allow cows to walk, stand, turn quickly and express heat without causing excessive hoof wear, slipping or falls. Slippery floor can alter cow's walking behaviour and may increase cow slips or falls.

Protocol:

1. The slipperiness of the floor will be quantified by recording the **number of cows that slip and fall** on two separate occasions:
 - I. **Exiting pen to the parlour**
 - Choose the group of cow which has the majority of our focal cows
 - Liaise with the producer to find out at what time the group will be moved from their pen to the parlour.
 - Watch 20 cows **or** up to 30 minute while the producer encourages the cows to move to the milking parlour.
 - Count the number of cows that slip and fall **once** (i.e. if the same cow falls or slips more than once, then count it as just one event) (**Table 1**).
 - Count the total number of cows you observe.
2. Once you have finished scoring all of the cows, sum the total number of cows that slipped and fell (**Table 3**).
3. Divide the sum of cows that slipped and fell by the total number of cows observed and multiply by 100 to calculate the **percentage of cows that slipped or fell**.
4. Record the slipperiness of the pen (Q118 in-barn checklist) using the scoring in **Table 3**.

TABLE 1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SLIP AND FALL

Behaviour	Description
Slip	This is an obvious change in the animal's movement. One or more hooves suddenly slide as they touch the floor.
Fall	At least 1 knee or hock rapidly drops down and touches the floor.

Adapted from Rushen and dePassillé, 2006

TABLE 3. SCORING OF FLOOR SLIPPERINESS

Score	Category	Description
0	Excellent	No slipping or falling
1	Acceptable	Less than 3% of the cattle slip
2	Not Acceptable	1% fall or >3% slip
3	Serious Problem	2% fall or 15% slip

<http://www.grandin.com/meat.association.institute.html>