

COW WELFARE ASSESSEMENT – FREE STALL SCORING

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

Type: TS or FS *(choose 1 answer)*

Date: *(dd-mm-yyyy)*

Observer: *(first name, last name)*

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

PRESENTATION

This report **summarizes observations from the on-farm assessment visit** on cow comfort.

The report focuses on **13 critical areas of cow comfort**.

The farm receive a score for each individual critical area, ranging from 0 (Target not reached) to 100 (Target reached). **The score obtained by the farm on the 13 critical areas will help the producer to focus on elements which should be improved in his cow comfort management.**

Each individual critical area consists of an evaluation of several measures (Target). All targets of an individual critical area add up to a maximum of 100 points. Each target has the same relative importance over the group of targets of a critical area. **The score obtained by the farm for each target will help the producer to focus on elements which should be improved in his cow comfort management.**

The choice of targets as well as the associated scoring system was discussed by a group of experts from several sectors of the dairy industry (technical advisors, veterinarian and researchers).

SCORE FOR THE 13 CRITICAL AREAS OF COW COMFORT MANAGEMENT**SECTION 1 – ACCOMODATION AND HOUSING****1.1. STALL DESIGN****a) lying time**

0	25	50	75	100
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Target not reached

Target reached

b) hock, knee and neck injuries

0	25	50	75	100
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c) stall configuration

0	25	50	75	100
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1.2. SPACE ALLOWANCE**a) stalls**

0	25	50	75	100
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b) feeders

0	25	50	75	100
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1.3 STALL MANAGEMENT**a) + b) stall base + stall bedding**

0	25	50	75	100
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c) stall/bedding management

0	25	50	75	100
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1.4. PEN MANAGEMENT (STANDING AREAS)

0	25	50	75	100
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1.5. MILKING PARLOR, HOLDING PENS AND TRANSFER ALLEYS TO THE MILKING PARLOR

0	25	50	75	100
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SECTION 2 – FEED AND WATER**2.1 BODY CONDITION SCORING**

0	25	50	75	100
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2.2. NUTRITION AND FEED MANAGEMENT

0	25	50	75	100
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SECTION 3 – HEALTH AND WELFARE MANAGEMENT**3.1 LAMENESS**

0	25	50	75	100
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3.2 CLAW HEALTH/HOOF-TRIMMING

0	25	50	75	100
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DETAILED SCORE PER CRITICAL AREA

SECTION 1 – ACCOMODATION AND HOUSING

1.1. STALL DESIGN

A) LYING TIME

Target	FARM SCORE
Comfortable dairy cows lie down for 12 h/d	/100

B) HOCK, KNEE AND KNECK INJURIES

Target	FARM SCORE
Comfortable stalls minimize hock, knee and neck injuries	/100

C) STALL CONFIGURATION

Target	FARM SCORE
The <u>average</u> stalls meet recommendations for the “heaviest 10 %” cow for each of the 8 dimensions	/100
100 % of cows fitting in the <u>average</u> stall for bed length and width	/100
The <u>average</u> multiparous Holstein Canadian cow fits in the <u>average</u> stall for bed length and width	/100
TOTAL	/100

1.2. SPACE ALLOWANCE

A) STALLS

Target	FARM SCORE
Stocking density must not exceed 1.2 cow/stall to reduce competition	/100

B) FEEDERS

Target	FARM SCORE
Linear feed bunk space must be at least 60 cm/cow to reduce competition	/100
Limit competition at the feed bunk by the presence of a barrier at feed bunk	/100
The alley where cows stand to feed should be at least 4.3 m to allow sufficient space for feeding and animal displacement	/100
Height of feed barrier must be high enough to allow <u>all cows</u> to feed comfortably (no risk of neck injuries)	/100
TOTAL	/100

1.3 STALL MANAGEMENT

A) STALL BASE/ B) STALL BEDDING

Target	FARM SCORE
Provide deep-bedded dry stalls	/100

C) STALL/BEDDING MANAGEMENT

Target	FARM SCORE
Cows must be kept in an environment with a low level of contamination (1) – <i>evaluation of cow cleanliness</i>	/100
Cows must be kept in an environment with a low level of contamination (2) – <i>evaluation of stall cleanliness</i>	/100
Stalls must be cleaned at every milking	/100
Stalls must be routinely bedded	/100
	/100

1.4. PEN MANAGEMENT (STANDING AREAS)

Target	FARM SCORE
Minimize the time cows spend standing on concrete in the pen	/100
Provide slip-resistant flooring in standing areas of the pen	/100
Ensure the floor is cleaned in standing areas of the pen	/100
Flush and/or scrape 2-3 times per day in standing areas of the pen	/100
TOTAL	/100

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

Target	FARM SCORE
Minimize milking and holding time below 2 h per day	/100
Minimize the time cows spend in concrete in the milking parlor, holding area and alleys to the milking parlor	/100
Flush and/or scrape 2-3 times per day in alleys to the milking parlor	/100
TOTAL	/100

SECTION 2 – FEED AND WATER

2.1 BODY CONDITION SCORING

Target	FARM SCORE
No cows should be at a BCS of 2 or lower	/100

2.2. NUTRITION AND FEED MANAGEMENT

Target	FARM SCORE
Provide feed to the cow daily	/100
Keep a consistent feeding schedule	/100
Ensure continuous access to feed	/100
TOTAL	/100

SECTION 3 – HEALTH AND WELFARE MANAGEMENT

3.1 LAMENESS

Target	FARM SCORE
Less than 10 % of obvious or severe lame cows	/100
Routinely observe cows for lameness	/100
Proper procedure to treat lame cows	/100
Keep complete records of lameness	/100
TOTAL	/100

3.2 CLAW HEALTH/HOOF-TRIMMING

Target	FARM SCORE
Trim claw approximately two months before calving to prevent and minimize lameness after calving	/100
Keep complete records of hoof-trimming	/100
TOTAL	/100