




















# Lameness scoring

Score	Walking speed	Stride	Weight bearing	Backline	Head
<p><b>0</b> Walks evenly</p> <p>No action required</p> <p>This cow is normal</p>	<p>Confident. Similar walking speed to a person. Maintains position in the herd.</p> 	<p>Long, even and regular. Rear foot placement matches front foot placement.</p> 	<p>Evenly placed and weight bearing when standing and walking.</p> 	<p>Straight (level) at all times.</p> 	<p>Held in line or slightly below the backline and steady when walking.</p> 
<p><b>1</b> Walks unevenly</p> <p>Minor action required</p> <p>Record and keep an eye on her – some cows normally walk unevenly</p>	<p>Not normally affected, should easily maintain position in the herd.</p> 	<p>May have uneven stride and/or rhythm. Rear foot placement may miss front foot placement.</p> 	<p>May stand or walk unevenly but difficult to identify which leg/s are affected.</p> 	<p>Straight when standing, may be mildly arched when walking.</p> 	<p>May have slight bob and or may be held lower than normal.</p> 
<p><b>2</b> Lame</p> <p>Action required</p> <p>This cow is lame and needs to be reported, drafted and examined within 24 hours</p>	<p>May be slower than normal; may stop, especially when turning a corner.</p> 	<p>Shortened strides rear foot placement falls short of front foot placement.</p> 	<p>Uneven – lame leg can be identified.</p> 	<p>Often arched when standing and walking.</p> 	<p>Bobs up and down when walking.</p> 
<p><b>3</b> Very lame</p> <p>Urgent action required</p> <p>This cow is very lame and needs urgent attention. Draft and examine as soon as possible</p>	<p>Very slow, stops often and will lie down in paddock. Cannot keep up with the healthy herd.</p> 	<p>Shortened and very uneven. Non lame leg will swing through quickly.</p> 	<p>Lame leg easy to identify – 'limping'; may barely stand on lame leg/s.</p> 	<p>Arched when standing and walking.</p> 	<p>Large head movements up and down when walking.</p> 