LOCOMOTION SCORING
of DAIRY CATTLE

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Locomotion scoring is based on the observation of cows standing and walking (gait), with special emphasis on their back posture. This system is intuitive and, therefore, easy to learn and implement. Use of locomotion scoring is effective for early detection of claw (hoof) disorders, monitoring prevalence of lameness, comparing the incidence and severity of lameness between herds and identifying individual cows for functional claw (hoof) trimming.

Animal observations should be made on a flat surface that provides good footing for cows. Cows scoring 2 or 3 should be examined and trimmed to prevent more serious problems. Trimming should be done by a competent trimmer with the goal of returning the claws to functional weight bearing and conformation.

Lameness is a multifactorial disease.

The following management factors will influence the incidence of lameness:

**COW COMFORT**
- avoid overcrowding
- provide properly designed and maintained stalls
- minimize heat stress
- flooring should provide good traction, but minimal wear

**CLAW CARE**
- practice maintenance trimming (2x/year)
- provide therapeutic trimming
- properly maintain and administer foot baths
- maintain a clean and dry environment

**TRANSITION**
- minimize abrupt ration changes to reduce rumen upsets
- strive to maximize animal health

**NUTRITION**
- provide nutritionally balanced diets
- provide properly mixed and delivered rations
- formulate rations to minimize sorting
- feed diets with proper micronutrient fortification
- feed 4-Plex® or ZINPRO® for improved claw integrity