

INJURY SCORING GUIDE

1. PURPOSE

The injury scoring system is intended to simplify the evaluation of hock, knee, and neck injuries of dairy cattle

2. RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.1 Trained and qualified personnel
- 2.2 Veterinarian

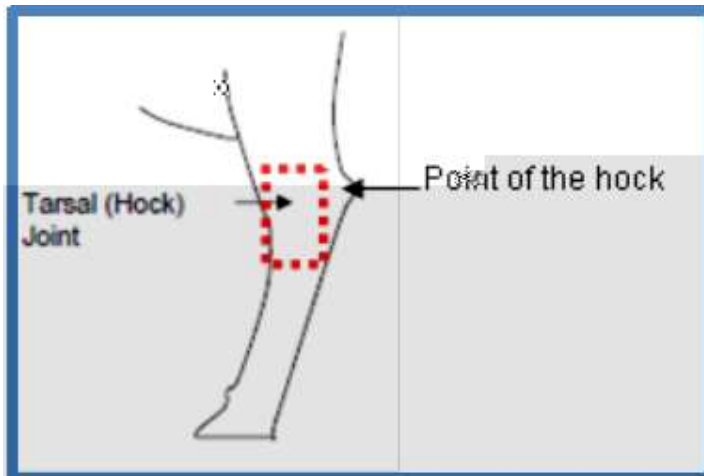
3. GENERAL

- 3.1 Animals are frequently monitored by staff while performing daily husbandry tasks.
- 3.2 Observed injuries must be immediately reported to the technician in charge and/or veterinarian.
- 3.3 Injuries are assessed using the scoring method (s) described below.
- 3.4 Record the results of the assessment on the [Health Scoring Record \(Appendix DC-A-6A\)](#) or the [Injury Scoring Record for Dairy Cows \(Appendix DC-A-6B\)](#).
- 3.5 Any unacceptable score "R" must be discussed with the Lead Technician, and/or Veterinarian and appropriate corrective action must be taken.

4. PROCEDURES

4.1 Hock Injury Scoring

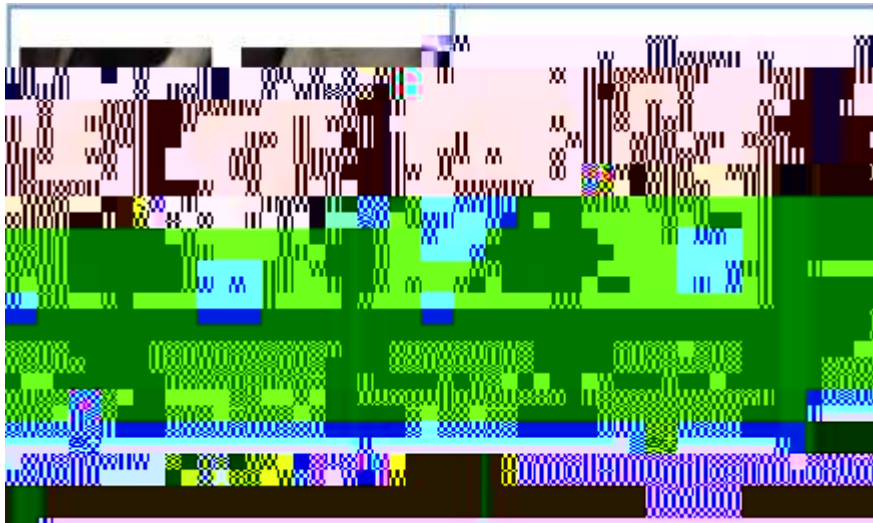
- 4.1.1 Condition of the hocks can be an important indicator of the abrasiveness of the resting surface, stall design, and cow comfort.
- 4.1.2 Score only the tarsal joint but not the point of the hock.



4.1.3 Corrective action:

- 4.1.3.1 15 minutes of hydrotherapy and /or topical ointments to help reduce swelling.
- 4.1.3.2 Administer an anti-inflammatory for pain management, if needed.
- 4.1.3.3 If the animal has difficulty getting up, place her in a box stall if available. If not available place straps in front so cow doesn't lunge too far into the feed manger and risk slipping in the manger.
- 4.1.3.4 A veterinarian consultation is required before cow is given access to outdoor exercise.
- 4.1.3.5 Ensure cow is placed in appropriately sized tie stall and sufficient bedding is added daily

Hock Injury Scoring Chart:



NOTE: Measurements apply to width, length and/or depth of swelling.

4.2 Knee Injury Scoring

4.2.1 Knee health is an important indicator of cow comfort and the hardness of the resting surface floor.

4.2.2 Score only the front of the knee (i.e., carpal joint).

Knee Injury Scoring



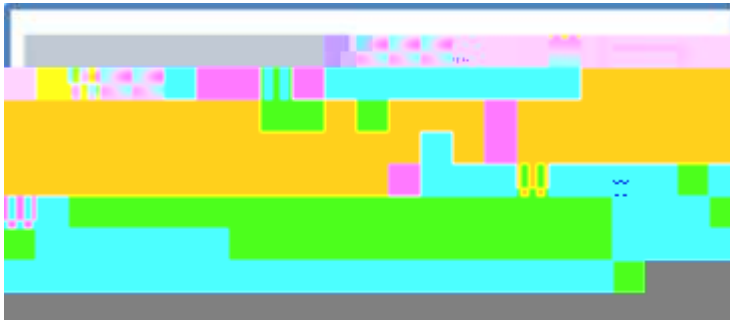
NOTE: Measurements apply to width, length and/or depth of swelling.

4.2.3 Corrective action:

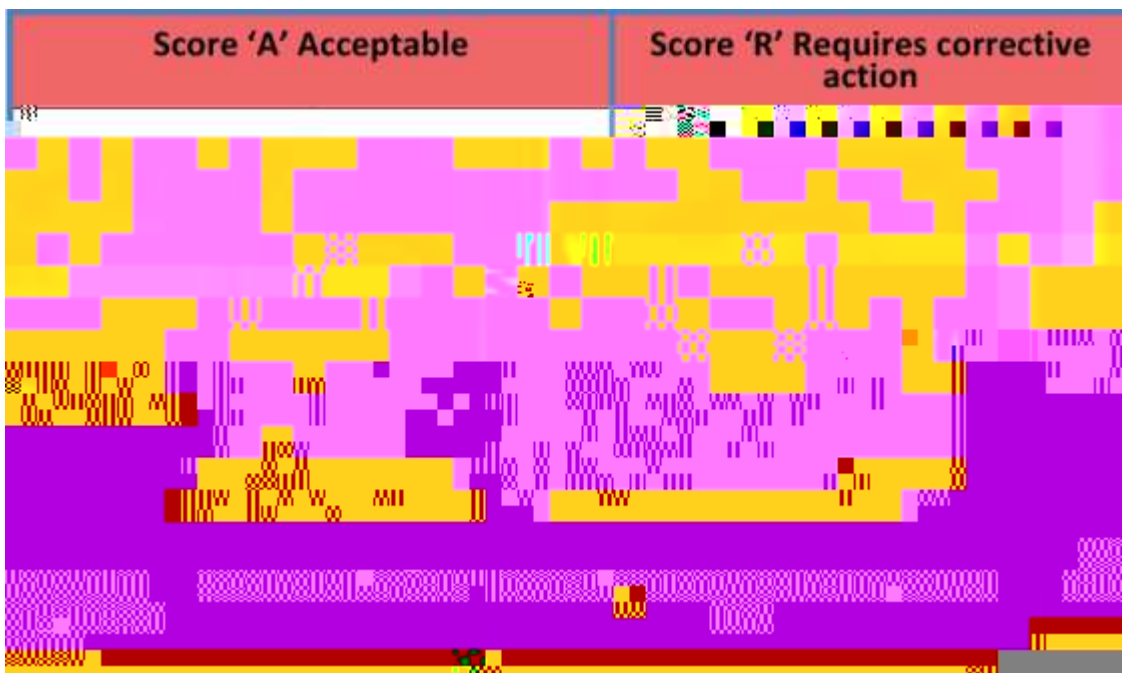
- 4.2.3.1 15 minutes of hydrotherapy and /or topical ointments to help reduce swelling.
- 4.2.3.2 Administer an anti-inflammatory for pain management, if needed.
- 4.2.3.3 If the animal has difficulty getting up, place her in a box stall if available. If not available place straps in front so cow doesn't lunge too far into the feed manger and risk slipping in the manger.
- 4.2.3.4 A veterinarian consultation is required before cow is given access to outdoor exercise.
- 4.2.3.5 Ensure cow is placed in appropriately sized tie stall and sufficient bedding is added daily

4.3 Neck Injury Scoring

- 4.3.1 Neck injury is an important indicator of whether neck rail/chain is at the correct height/length and that the feed is consistently within easy reach for the animal.
- 4.3.2 Score only the neck crest (ears to withers).



Neck Injury Scoring Chart:



4.3.3 Corrective action:

- 4.3.3.1 Ensure the cow is placed in appropriately sized tie stall
- 4.3.3.2 Ensure feed is pushed in often for easy reach.

