

Hock Assessment Chart for Cattle



Score = 1

No swelling. No hair is missing.



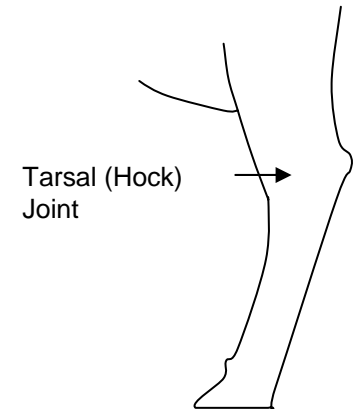
Score = 2

No swelling. Bald area on the hock.



Score = 3

Swelling is evident or there is a lesion through the hide.



The normal, healthy hock is free from skin lesions and swelling. Ideally, the hair coat in that area is smooth and continuous with the rest of the leg.

Hock health is an important indicator of the abrasiveness of stall bedding and cow comfort. Injury is usually the result of prolonged exposure to an abrasive stall surface. Skin breakage provides an opportunity for infection to occur, which can lead to swelling, discomfort, and possibly lameness.

A consistent method of scoring hocks for swelling and hair loss allows you to assess the need to modify your stall management and can help you evaluate the effect of management changes.

Herd Assessment Method

1. Score the rear hock (one or both) from at least 20 cows for each housing or management group.
2. For each score, enter a stroke in the appropriate box of the table.
3. Count the number of strokes for each score and enter in the "tally" box.
4. Enter the total number of hocks scored.
5. Divide "tally" by "total number" and multiply by 100. Enter as percent for each score.
6. Monitor monthly to assess a change in management or stall surface.
7. Note that in deep sand stalls that are well maintained, it is rare to find a hock with a score greater than 1.

Adapted from James Nocek



Hock Assessment Chart for Cattle

	1 No hair missing	2 Bald area on hock	3 Swelling or lesion through hide
Group:			
Date:			
Tally			
Total # scored			
Percent			
Target	>95%	<5%	0%

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Date:			
Tally			
Total # scored			
Percent			
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