

# HYGIENE SCORING CARD

SCORE

LEGS

UDDERS

FLANK & UPPER LEG

1



2



3



4



# INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE HYGIENE SCORING CARD

This hygiene scoring system has been developed to use on farm as a trouble shooting tool - to quantify hygiene on a farm, and as a monitor - to assess improvements in hygiene management.

## ***How Many Cows?***

Aim to score all cows in a small (<100 cows) herd or at least 25% of the cows in each pen in a large (>100 cows) herd. Score in each of three zones - lower leg, udder and upper leg and flank zones. Score each zone separately. Scores 3 and 4 show a level of poor hygiene which is unacceptable, therefore calculate the proportion of scores 3 and 4 for each zone scored.

## ***Scoring Guide***

### **Lower leg**

The scoring system aims to track the amount of manure present and the distance it extends proximally up the leg. Score 1 is little or no manure above the coronary band. Score 2 is minor splashing above the coronary band. Score 3 is distinct plaques of manure above the coronary band, but with leg hair visible. Score 4 is a solid plaque of manure extending high up the leg.

Typically stanchion / tie stall cows have clean legs and freestall cows have a high degree of leg contamination from walking through manure filled alleyways.

### **Udder**

Observe the udder from the rear and the side if possible. The presence of visible manure near the teats is a risk factor for udder infection. Score 1 is no manure present. Score 2 is minor splashing of manure near the teats. Score 3 is distinct plaques of manure on the lower half of the udder and Score 4 is confluent plaques of manure encrusted on and around the teats.

Manure may be transferred to the udder either by lying on a filthy surface or by resting the udder on a manure contaminated lower leg.

### **Upper leg and Flank**

Score 1 is no manure. Score 2 is minor splashing of manure. Score 3 is distinct plaques of manure with hair showing through, and Score 4 is confluent plaques of manure.

This zone maybe contaminated either by lying on a filthy surface as would occur in a poorly managed stanchion barn stall, or by a manure encrusted tail swishing around the rump area.

## ***Benchmarks***

Benchmarks from 20 herds visited in Wisconsin suggest the following target levels of hygiene:

Farm Type	Proportion of Scores 3 and 4 in each zone		
	Lower Leg	Udder	Upper Leg and Flank
Freestall Mean	54	20	17
Best Zone Score	24	5	6
Stanchion Mean	25	18	26
Best Zone Score	9	0	5