

Cow Cleanliness Assessment



Réseau canadien de recherche sur la mammite bovine
Canadian Bovine Mastitis Research Network



The cleanliness of cows has a significant impact on udder health and more particularly on the rate of environmental mastitis. Maintaining a clean udder and legs helps reducing the spread of environmental pathogens to the teat canal. Depending on what part of the cow is soiled, it is possible to determine what areas of the barn have an inadequate level of cleanliness, therefore appropriate corrective action can be taken.

	1	2	3	4
Udder				
Hind legs				
Flanks and hips				

Adapted from fact-sheets produced by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin, and Pfizer Animal Health. Most photos courtesy of Pfizer Animal Health.

Udder cleanliness

(back and sides)

is an indicator of the cleanliness of stalls and bedding.

(Examine right before milking)

If the standard is not met, check:

- Cleanliness of stalls
- Amount of bedding
- Need to shave/singe udder hair
- Manure consistency

Hind legs cleanliness

is an indicator of the cleanliness of alleyways and the length of tie stalls.

If the standard is not met, check:

- Cleanliness of alleyways and exterior areas
- Cleanliness of holding area
- Dimension of stalls
- Manure consistency

Flanks and hips cleanliness

is an indicator of the cleanliness of stalls and bedding.

If the standard is not met, check:

- Cleanliness of stalls
- Amount of bedding
- Manure consistency

Photo credits: «Less Mastitis, Better Milk» (Pierre Lévesque, 2004), distributed by Hoard's Dairyman (www.hoards.com).

Cow Cleanliness Assessment

1 - Assess all the cows within the herd.

If the herd is larger than 100 head:

assess 25% of herd.

2 - Examine each of the areas described

on the photos and provide a score

on a cleanliness scale of 1 to 4.

3 - Record the cow ID in the column

of the appropriate score. Add up the cows

and calculate the % for each level of

cleanliness (1 to 4).

Name of farm:

Date:

Herd size:

Score	1	2	3	4	Total	%
Udder						
Total					cows	%

Score	1	2	3	4	Total	%
Hind legs						
Total					cows	%

Score	1	2	3	4	Total	%
Flanks/hips						
Total					cows	%

of cows assessed:

of cows with hind legs score of 3 and 4:

=% (standard: <15% tie stall) (standard: <50% free stall)

of cows with udder score of 3 and 4:

of cows with flanks/hips score of 3 and 4:

=% (standard: <20% tie stall) (standard: <10% free stall)