

## INJURY SCORING GUIDE

### 1. PURPOSE

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

### 2. RESPONSIBILITY

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- 2.1 Trained and qualified personnel
- 2.2 Veterinarian

### 3. GENERAL

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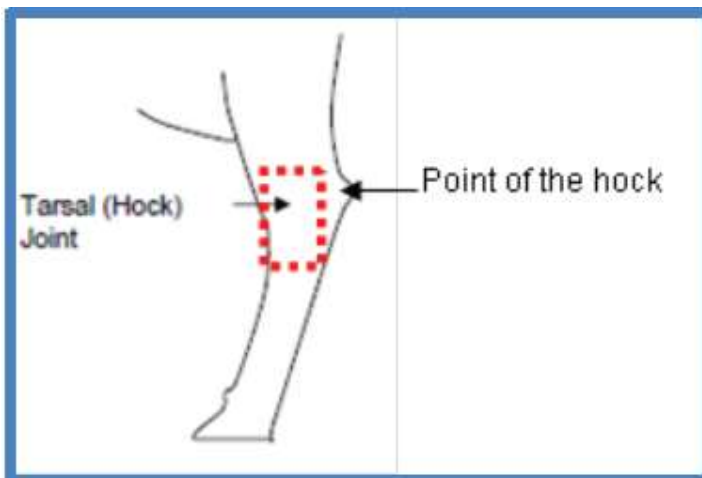
- 3.1 Animals are frequently monitored by staff while performing daily husbandry tasks.
- 3.2 Observed injuries must be immediately reported to the technician in charge and/or veterinarian.
- 3.3 Injuries are assessed using the scoring method (s) described below.
- 3.4 Record the results of the assessment 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

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#### 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:**

			
No Swelling. No hair is missing, some hair loss or broken hair.	No Swelling or minor swelling (< 1 cm). Bald area on hock	Medium swelling (1-2.5 cm) <b>and/or</b> lesion on bald area.	Major swelling (> 2.5 cm). May have bald area/lesion.
<b>Score 'A' Acceptable</b>		<b>Score 'R' Requires corrective action</b>	





**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**

<b>Score 'A' Acceptable</b>	
No Swelling. No hair is missing, some hair loss or broken hair. 	No Swelling. Bald area. 
<b>Score 'R' Requires corrective action</b>	
Broken skin or scab <b>and/or</b> swelling (< 2.5 cm). May have bald area 	Major swelling (≥ 2.5 cm). May have bald area/lesion. 

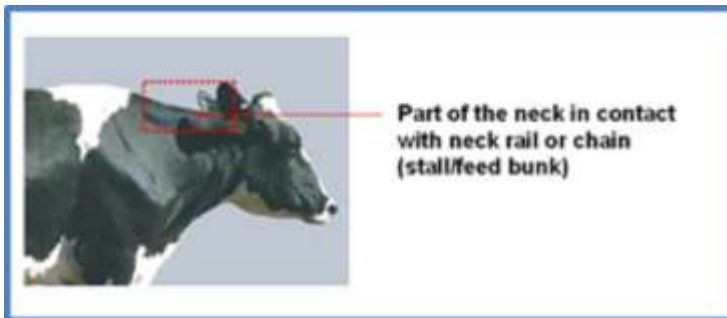
**NOTE:** Measurements apply to width, length and/or depth of swelling.

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:

Score 'A' Acceptable		Score 'R' Requires corrective action
		
No swelling. No hair is missing, some hair loss or broken hair.	No swelling. Bald area visible	Broken skin or scab and/or swelling. May have bald area

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.

## 5. REFERENCES

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- 5.1 Dairy Farmers of Canada, proAction Animal Care. January 2017. *Quick Guide to Injury Scoring*. Retrieved from <https://www.dairyfarmers.ca/proaction/resources/animal-care>

### Document Status and Revision History

DATE	STATUS
7-Feb-2018	Revision 01: Macdonald Campus FACC approved
20-Jul-2023	Revision 02: Macdonald Campus FACC approved