




**Optional:**

## MEASURING ANIMAL CARE (Indicators of Quality)

My cows speak to me and my employees in many ways.  
Four important “voices” they use are:

- *Hygiene Score*
- *Lesion Score*
- *Locomotion Score*
- *Body Condition Score*

<b>Lesion Score (1-3)</b>	
	<b>= 1 good</b>
	<b>= 2 bald</b> No swelling. Bald area on hock.
	<b>= 3 bad</b> Swelling is evident or there is a lesion through the hide.

<b>Hygiene Score (1-5)</b>	
1 = Clean - Good 5 = Dirty - Bad	
SCORE: 1	5
	
	
	

Another measure of attitude and dignity of the animal is in her appearance. A clean cow is a well cared for animal. Clean loafing barns, stalls and dry lots prove to be the groundwork of healthy cows. Responsible bedding management can reduce the incidence of hock lesions.

A positive attitude in maintaining a clean environment for my cows is proactive in preventing mastitis and milk quality issues. My attitude as a food producer shows as a clean environment for all of my animals.

*Optional:*

## MEASURING ANIMAL CARE (Indicators of Quality)

### Locomotion Score (1-5)

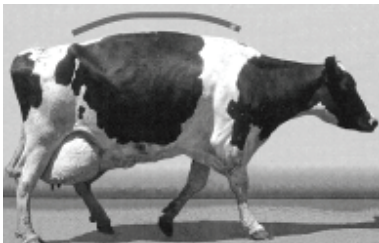
#### 1 = Normal



Back posture walking, standing; flat.

1 – Straight back walking and standing

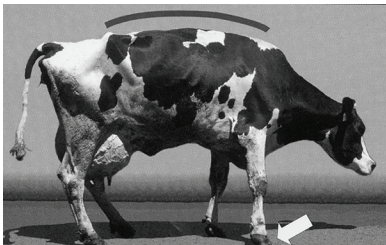
#### 3 = Moderately Lamé



Back posture walking, standing; arched.

3 – Arched back walking and standing. Short strides.

#### 5 = Severely Lamé



Back posture walking, standing; arched.

5 – Arched back walking and standing. Unable to bear weight on one limb. Head bob and limp detected.

### Body Condition Score

Under conditioned



2.25 – 2.5  
or below

Good



3.0

Over conditioned



3.5 – 3.75  
or above

Animal care illustrated by the cow's ability to walk and her body condition reflects your attitude of caring for her and the dignity you provide her. A cow's ability to walk without pain is measured by her locomotion score. The lower the score the more comfortable the cow is able to move around.

Body condition scores are another measure of animal care and the dignity provided for your dairy animals. A cow that is thin (2.25 or below) is reduced in market value and seen as unhealthy. Nutrition and feed management to support her milking cycle is critical to your sustainable production practices.

Planned culling while the animal is in good body condition provides an economic incentive to your dairy.