

ASSESSING HOCK INJURIES

1. Assess the condition of both hocks using the four pictures presented below.
 - Scoring is only done on the part of the leg shown in Figure 1 - i.e., only the tarsal joint is scored, not the point of hock;
 - In a free-stall barn, if it is too difficult to score both hocks in herringbone parlours, the scoring can be done as the animal leaves the milking parlour or is standing at the feed bunk.
2. Record the **higher** of the two scores on the Data Recording Sheet.

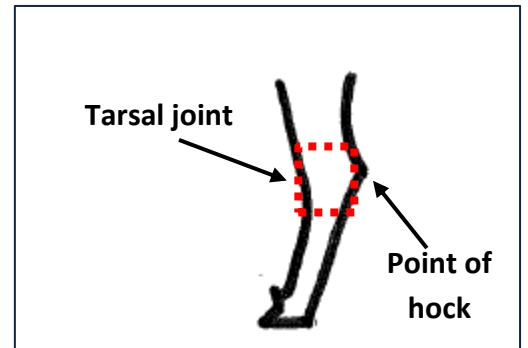


Fig. 1: Area assessed during hock scoring

General Description of Hock Injury Scores



Score 0
No swelling.
Coat intact, may be some wear or damaged hair.



Score 1
No swelling or minor swelling (<1 cm).
Bald area on the hock.



Score 2
Moderate swelling (1-2.5 cm) and/or lesion on the bald area.



Score 3
Major swelling (> 2.5 cm).
There may be a bald area or lesion.

Data Recording Sheet

Date : _____ Evaluated by: _____

#	Cow Identification	Hock Injuries Scores			
		0	1	2	3
1		0	1	2	3
2		0	1	2	3
3		0	1	2	3
4		0	1	2	3
5		0	1	2	3
6		0	1	2	3
7		0	1	2	3
8		0	1	2	3
9		0	1	2	3
10		0	1	2	3
11		0	1	2	3
12		0	1	2	3
13		0	1	2	3
14		0	1	2	3
15		0	1	2	3
16		0	1	2	3
17		0	1	2	3
18		0	1	2	3
19		0	1	2	3
20		0	1	2	3
Total Number per Score =					
Total Number of Scores 2 + 3 =					
Total Number of Scores 2 + 3 = _____ / 20 Cows = _____ %					

Where do you stand?

Compare your results with these from the Dairy Research Cluster project at page 5 of the Practical Guide to Evaluating and Improving Comfort in the Barn.