



The  
**GEORGE**  
Farm Vets



## MOBILITY - May 25

Following on from our mobility scoring benchmarking I thought we would use this month's newsletter to delve into mobility a bit further.

The Dairy Cattle Mobility Steering Group has recently released the GB Dairy Cow Lameness Manifesto which includes various strategies to help incrementally reduce lameness over the next 20 years, aiming for a 10% relative reduction in lameness year on year. This means lameness will be addressed by Red Tractor and milk buyers in coming years.

### Why is mobility so important in our dairy herds?

1. Welfare - lameness is an extremely painful condition and impacts cow behaviour.
2. Economic impact - lame cows have reduced production, fertility and often require earlier culling.



AHDB have produced a cost calculator which can be used to estimate the cost of lameness in your herd: <https://lamenesscostcalculator.ahdb.org.uk/calculator>.

The table below shows a simplified estimate of cost of lameness on farm. Using these figures, the cost of lameness for a 300 cow herd with a score of 80% (so 20% score 2/ 3 cows) would be:

Measure	Costs using 2009 data	2023 cost
Average cost per day of lameness for all lame cows (AHDB Mobility Score 2 and Mobility Score 3 cows)	£2.20/day	£3.30/day
MS score 2 cows, average cost per day of lameness	£1.50/day	£2.25/day
MS score 3 cows, average cost per day of lameness	£4.50/day	£6.80/day



60 lame cows x £3.30 x 365 days = £72,270 a year.

If we could improve the mobility score to 95%, there would be a £54,000 reduction in losses due to lameness!

These costs are made up of fertility, premature culling, reduced yield and treatment costs.

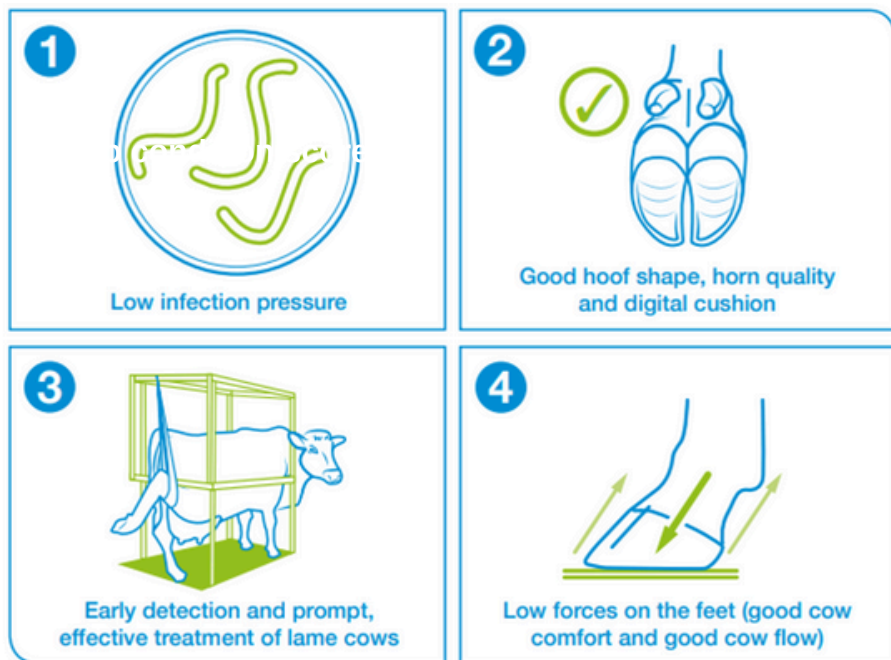
COMPASSION RESPECT INTEGRITY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESSION CARE

T: 01666 823035 Option "1" for visits or enquiries, "2" for medicines, "3" for TB testing

## What can we do to improve?

The great thing about lameness is that small changes can result in a huge improvement. We have 4 trained mobility mentors in the team who can undertake the healthy feet programme on farm, taking into account your system to make an action plan.

The programme is based around 4 success factors:



Today we will just discuss **point 3**. Early detection and prompt effective treatment of lame cows (**EDPET**).

This is the absolute cornerstone of lameness prevention - spotting and treating lame cows as soon as possible, leading to much faster and higher cure rates.

Regular mobility scoring, ideally by a ROMS accredited scorer, to highlight affected cows is a key aspect of this.

Following identification, lame cows should ideally be treated within 48 hours. Speedy treatment will improve cure rates and help avoid chronic changes in the foot which can lead to long term issues.

## Getting these cows treated is comprised of 2 key elements:

1. Having someone on farm who knows how to treat lame cows effectively. We offer regular Lantra Accredited First Aid for Feet courses in conjunction with Tom Morris (Morris Moo Shoes), which covers identification and treatment of common lesions. Even if you have been trimming for a long time, this can be a good refresher as treatment advice has changed in recent years.
2. Having the facility to be able to easily restrain and treat a lame cow. In reality, this means having a decent working foot crush, in an easy to access place, with well maintained trimming equipment. If a job is easy to do it is much more likely to happen. All being well, there should be a new round of the farming equipment technology fund available before long which could contribute towards a new crush.

## Implementing EDPET can lead to huge improvements in herd mobility.

Sadly I don't have room in this newsletter to cover the other success factors for the healthy feet programme, but if you are interested then please have a chat with your farm vet who can point you towards one of the practice mobility mentors. The animal health and welfare pathway can be used towards this! Our next First Aid for Feet course is 12th June so give the office a call if you would like to book a space.



### Vet Tech Update

Get your heifers freezebranded before turn out.

Contact Rosie on 07500 311382 to book.



all the best,  
Sarah