01258 472314 | farmoffice@fmlh.co.uk | friarsmoorlivestockhealth.co.uk

FriarsMoor Livestock Health

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

#ColostrumIsGold

Total Protein visits for Autumn calving Dairy and Suckler herds, email to register your interest: **farmoffice@fmlh.co.uk**

CHARITY GOLF DAY

11th September in aid of Youngminds
At Folke Golf Course
Contact John for info

Mobility Scoring & AI: The future of lameness detection

Head to our website to read my full article this month and get in touch with our team if you have any questions.

Paul Doran,
***Vet** MA, VetMB, MRCVS*

MOBILITY SCORING AND AI: THE FUTURE OF LAMENESS DETECTION

The importance mobility scoring has been well established, with research repeatedly demonstrating that in its absence, lameness detection tends to be very poor, with early cases going undetected and therefore untreated.

This is important as it's increasingly recognised that prompt identification and treatment of lameness is key to success. A 2016 study demonstrated 6-week cure rates as low as 25% when cows had been lame for at least 2 weeks at the time of treatment.

This is contrasted to a similar study the previous year which found significantly higher cure rates in cows mobility scored every fortnight and treated within 48 hours of being identified as lame. Cure rates were highest when cows were treated with a block on the sound claw and a 3-day course of Ketofen in addition to trimming.

Mobility scoring is not without drawbacks. Not only is it time consuming, especially in large herds but it's also subjective, with huge potential for inconsistency between scorers. It's also infrequent, as few farms would score more often than every 2 weeks and many score only quarterly or less.

Continues overleaf, read full article online:
fmlh.co.uk/news-resources

UPCOMING COURSES & EVENTS

→ **HEIFER EFFICIENCY BIRTH TO WEANING**
10/09/25

→ **HERDSPERSON COURSE**
08/10/25

→ **CHARITY QUIZ**
17/10/25

Find out more
www.fmlh.co.uk/events

UDDER CLEFT DERMATITIS (UCD)

UCD is a lesion of the udder skin that can lead to secondary infection, loss of yield and even fatalities in up to 26% of UK dairy cows.

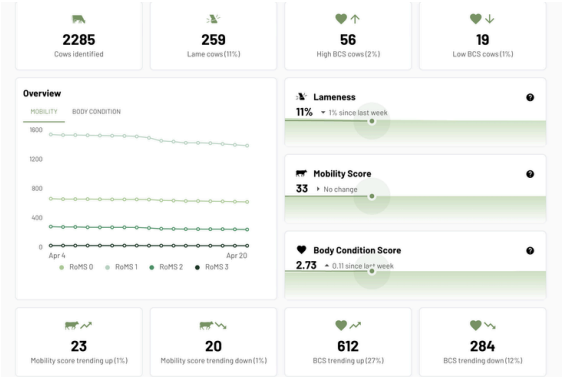
- We can screen for UCD in the parlour using a telescopic mirror (this can be tied in with mobility scoring).
- Traditional aerosol sprays struggle to reach deep, wash off easily and offer limited microbial protection.
- Ambugreen is a new product that creates a gel barrier to shield the wound and optimise healing.

Give the practice a call today to discuss or book in a herd check

Continued from front page

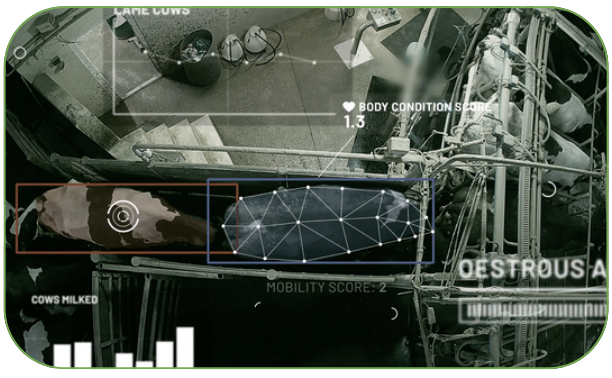
MOBILITY SCORING AND AI: THE FUTURE OF LAMENESS DETECTION

Research has shown repeatability between scorers can be improved with training, which is the principle on which Register of Mobility Scorers (RoMS) accreditation is based.



Given its widespread adoption in the UK dairy industry, it's surprising that until recently, there has been little work to investigate how accurate mobility scoring is. However, there have been a couple of studies on this published in the last 2 years.

Siachos et al. 2025, found an average sensitivity of 60% and a specificity of 78%, whereas a similar study in Ireland (Logan et al. 2024) found a sensitivity of only 35% but a higher specificity of 94%. This means that scorers in the UK study missed fewer lame cows than the Irish study but in over 20% the cows they scored, no obvious cause of lameness was found in the feet.



There may be several reasons why the figures from these studies differ, but it is probably worth noting that whilst both used the AHDB mobility scoring system, in Siachos et al. the researchers were all RoMS accredited, meaning they have undergone specific training and passed the RoMS exam.

An exciting new development is the use of automated lameness detection systems based upon artificial intelligence analysis of camera footage such as CattleEye and HerdVision. Although these systems are very new to the market, they have the potential to overcome many of the problems associated with human mobility scoring such as variability between scorers and infrequent scoring.

Of the systems currently on the market, CattleEye currently has the most substantial scientific evidence base to support its use. Interestingly, work to date has suggested that CattleEye is not yet quite as accurate as experienced RoMS scorers.

As the technology continues to develop, automated systems may out-perform human scoring in the near future. However, even if automated lameness detection was to remain less accurate than trained human observers, it may still offer advantages, such as the potential for continuous monitoring being able to track subtle changes over time and identify trends that would be impossible to detect with manual scoring.

Another very uniquely innovative technology to come to the market in recent years is the Hoofcount PediVue system. PediVue consists of a camera situated behind a self-cleaning screen on the front of the foot bath to record passage of cows as they exit the bath. PediVue's potential for automated mobility scoring remains unclear however the system demonstrates an impressive ability to sensitively detect digital dermatitis, which under normal circumstances, is particularly challenging to detect as a majority of infected cows are not lame and therefore cannot be detected by mobility scoring alone.

Read the full article online:
fmlh.co.uk/news-resources

MAKING THE BEST DAIRY-BEEF BREEDING DECISIONS
17th SEPT / 10:30-13:00 / FREE
Nr STURMINSTER NEWTON / INC REFRESHMENTS

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT
Friday 17th October from 7:30pm
£15pp incl food
(Pre-order required)
Raising money for **FCN** who are partnering with **Macmillan Cancer Support** for **#NipItInTheBud**
Closworth, Yeovil BA22 9RF
To book: T: **01258 472314** E: **farmoffice@fmlh.co.uk**