Lameness in pasture-based dairy cows (supplementary material): Farmer questionnaire

Questionnaire 1 – Grazing visit

Farm: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________ Interviewer: ____________________________

Respondent:

Background

1. What is the size of your grazing platform this year (Ha/Ac)?
   __________________________________________________________________________

2. How many people work on your farm (including family members)?
   i. Full time ____________________________ __________________________________________
   ii. Part time ______________ # Days/week ____________________________

3. Have you expanded your farm in the last 5 years?
   □ Yes
   □ No
   i. If yes, please specify how:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increased milking cow numbers</th>
<th>Increased grazing area (Ha/Ac)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
   ii. If yes, please tick all that apply:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>New build</th>
<th>Renovated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roadways</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Are you planning to expand in the next 5 years?
   □ Yes - How? ____________________________ __________________________________________
   □ No
   □ Don’t know/ maybe

5. Current number of milking cows? ____________________________________________________
6. Do you ever buy/bring in new stock (tick all that applies)?
   □ None
   □ Heifers
   □ Cows
   □ Bulls
   □ Calves
   □ Other – Specify _________________________________

7. On what date are cows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turned out to pasture full time this year (2019)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housed full-time last year (2018)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Milking**

8. In general, how many times do you milk per day?
   □ 1x/day
   □ 2x/day
   □ 3x/day
   □ Other

   i. Does this ever change?
   □ Yes – specify _________________________________
   □ No

9. How are cows brought to the collecting yard? | How are cows brought into the parlour from the collecting yard? | How do cows exit the parlour?
   □ On-foot
   □ Motorised vehicle
   □ Other – specify ______________

10. Is a dog present when moving the cows to/from the parlour?
    □ Yes
    □ No
11. How long are cows held in the collecting yard before milking?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum time (mins)</th>
<th>Maximum time (mins)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

12. During grazing, are cows held after milking?

- [ ] Yes, every day – How long? ____________________________
- [ ] Yes, some days – How long? ____________________________
- [ ] No

**Grazing and roadways**

13. Do you have any cows that graze in a separate group?

- [ ] No
- [ ] Lame cows
- [ ] Sick cows
- [ ] Other – Specify ____________________________

14. Is the total walking distance ever a factor when deciding the order to graze paddocks? (e.g. do you alternate close and far paddocks)

- [ ] Yes - When? ____________________________
- [ ] No ______________________________

15. How often are the following repaired/maintained?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roadways</th>
<th>Paddock entrances/gateways</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Once/year</td>
<td>Once/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twice/year</td>
<td>Twice/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once/2 year</td>
<td>Once/2 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>Never</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other – specify</td>
<td>Other – specify</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____________________________</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. What is the distance between the paddocks and the parlour?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Closest paddock</th>
<th>Furthest paddock</th>
<th>Generally</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17. Is the furthest paddock part of your regular grazing rotation?

____________________________________________________________
18. What materials are used in your main (most used) roadways?
   a. Surface ________________________________________________
   b. Base ________________________________________________

19. Are the roadways used by farm machinery or only animals?
   □ Cows only
   □ Cows and Machinery
   □ Combination – Specify ____________________________________

20. Do the cows ever have to cross a road?
   □ Yes
      i. How many times? ______________________________________
   □ No

21. Are there any over/underpasses on your cow roadways?
   □ Yes
   □ No

Lameness prevention

22. Do you have a herd health plan document?
   □ Yes
      i. Created by yourself only □
         ii. Created with vet input/review □
   □ No (If no go to 24)

23. Does your herd health plan include lameness protocols (e.g. footbathing)
   □ Yes
   □ No

Foot bathing

24. Do you use a footbath? (If no, go to 29)
   □ Never
   □ If required
   □ Yes – How often? ________________________________
      Product used? ________________________________

25. Do you ever use antibiotics in a footbath?
   □ Yes – How often? ________________________________
      Reason? ________________________________
   □ No
26. After how many cows would you change the footbath?
___________________________

27. Do you clean the cows feet prior to using a disinfectant-containing footbath?
  □ No
  □ Using a hose
  □ Using a footbath containing water
  □ Other – specify __________________________________________

28. Did you receive advice on your foot bathing method, if so, by who?
  □ No
  □ Vet
  □ Foot trimmer
  □ Teagasc advisor
  □ Other – specify __________________________________________

29. Have you/staff received hoof trimming training
  □ No
  □ From experienced staff members
  □ Course – specify __________________________________________
  □ Other – specify __________________________________________

30. Do all the cows, whether lame or not, undergo routine hoof examinations/trimming in the year? *(If no, go to 34)*
  □ Yes – How often? __________________________________________
  □ No

31. When do routine herd hoof examination/trimming take place?
  □ At drying off
  □ Early lactation
  □ Mid-lactation
  □ Other – specify __________________________________________

32. Are both the front and back feet examined/trimmed at the routine hoof examination?
  □ Yes, both
  □ Back only
  □ Sometimes – specify __________________________________________
33. Who performs the routine hoof trimming/examination?

- Myself
- Farm staff
- Foot trimmer
- Vet

**Lameness detection**

34. What methods are used to detect cows that are lame or have impaired mobility?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

35. Who detects lameness/impairment mobility?

- Myself
- Farm staff
- Foot trimmer
- Vet
- Other – specify __________________________

36. Are you familiar with mobility scoring?

- Yes
- No

37. Do you perform mobility scoring:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes *</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>System (e.g. 0-3 MS scale)</th>
<th>Training received - Y/N, how? (e.g. shadow or course)</th>
<th>Who scores?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
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</table>

*Scoring using a formal scoring scale.*

38. Do you keep specific lameness records?

- If medicated
- If trimmed
- If seen lame
- No
Lameness treatment

39. Approximately, how many cows were treated for lameness in 2018?  
______________________________________________________________

40. How quickly after identifying a lame cow do you treat her?  
☐ < 12 hrs.  
☐ < 24 hrs.  
☐ < 48 hrs.  
☐ Within a week  
☐ Other – specify _______________________________________________

41. Who treats lame cows?  
☐ Myself  
☐ Farm staff  
☐ Foot trimmer  
☐ Vet

42. Do you wait for a number of cows to be lame before treating?  
☐ Yes – How many? ________________________________________________  
☐ No

43. Under what circumstances do you call a vet out to treat a lame cow?  
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

44. Under what circumstances do you call a foot trimmer to treat a lame cow?  
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

45. How do you treat a mildly lame cow?  
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

46. How do you treat a severely lame cow?  
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
47. Do you re-examine the foot after the initial treatment?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No
   ☐ Only if still lame

48. If a bandage is applied as part of a treatment, do you remove the bandage?
   ☐ No
   ☐ Yes – after how many days? ________________________________
   ☐ Never needed to bandage