

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:

Increased milking cow numbers	Increased grazing area (Ha/Ac)

ii. If yes, please tick all that apply:

	New build	Renovated
Roadways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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:

	Date
Turned out to pasture <b>full time this year (2019)</b>	
Housed <b>full-time last year (2018)</b>	

### 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?
<input type="checkbox"/> On-foot <input type="checkbox"/> Motorised vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify _____	<input type="checkbox"/> On their own <input type="checkbox"/> Herd them always <input type="checkbox"/> Herd when required <input type="checkbox"/> Backing gate <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify _____	<input type="checkbox"/> On their own <input type="checkbox"/> Voice <input type="checkbox"/> Physical <input type="checkbox"/> 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?

Minimum time (mins)	Maximum time (mins)

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
- Lamé 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?

Roadways	Paddock entrances/gateways
<input type="checkbox"/> Once/year <input type="checkbox"/> Twice/year <input type="checkbox"/> Once/2 year <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Once/year <input type="checkbox"/> Twice/year <input type="checkbox"/> Once/2 year <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify _____

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

Closest paddock	Furthest paddock	Generally

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 \_\_\_\_\_

*Routine herd trimming*

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/ impaired mobility?

- Myself
- Farm staff
- Foot trimmer
- Vet
- Other – specify \_\_\_\_\_

36. Are you familiar with mobility scoring?

- Yes
- No

37. Do you perform mobility scoring:

Yes *	No	Frequency	System (e.g. 0-3 MS scale)	Training received - Y/N, how? (e.g. shadow or course)	Who scores?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

\* 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