

PROPER CARE FOR

NON-AMBULATORY COWS

PREVENT

- 1 Ensure cows are **consuming a balanced ration** to prevent metabolic disease and manage body condition
- 2 Ensure cows are able to **rise soon after calving**
- 3 **Observe cows daily** for any abnormal activities
- 4 Ensure **employees are trained** in low-stress cow handling and that alleyways are properly maintained to **prevent cows from slips and falls** and for proper feet and leg support

The National Dairy FARM Program requires annual animal care employee trainings

Herd Health Plan

PLAN



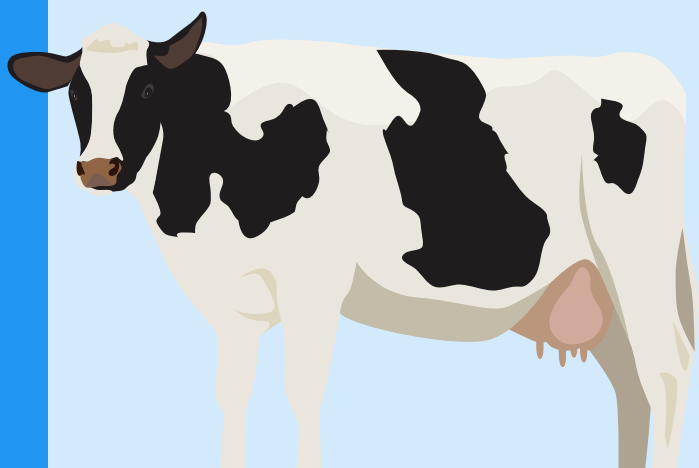
- 1 Identify **who is trained** and should be called in a non-ambulatory cow situation
The National Dairy FARM Program requires annual animal care employee trainings
- 2 Have a team **trained to properly move** a non-ambulatory cow
Refer to the FARM Animal Care Reference Manual for appropriate measures when using equipment to maneuver down cows
- 3 Have a written non-ambulatory cow **protocol**
The National Dairy FARM Program requires up-to-date written protocols for managing non-ambulatory cattle
- 4 Have an **identified hospital area**
- 5 **REMAIN CALM**

CARE

- 1 Provide **deep bedding** at least 6" deep – sand is best
- 2 Provide **safe shelter** from the elements and away from cows
- 3 Put **feed and water in tubs** that do not tip over and are within easy reach - **check availability at least twice a day**
- 4 Lift the cow using **proper protocol** or roll her onto her other side twice a day
- 5 Consult with your herd veterinarian about a **proper treatment plan** for the cow
- 6 **Never drag cows**



ASSIST THE COW TO STAND IF a physical exam and initial treatment have been completed and she:



- Is bright and alert
- Is not severely trembling or twitching
- Does not have evidence of severe disease
- Does not appear severely weak
- Appears to have normal and functioning limbs

COMMON CAUSES 5 Ms

M

MILK FEVER

Symptoms: dull/weak; trembling/twitching; temperature below 101F; cold, droopy ears

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TOXIC MASTITIS

Symptoms: dull/weak; temperature extremes (high or low); sunken eyes; abnormal milk; heat, pain and swelling of one or more quarters

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TOXIC METRITIS

Symptoms: dull/weak; temperature extremes (high or low); sunken eyes; watery, colored or cloudy vaginal discharge and odor

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MUSCULOSKELETAL DAMAGE

Symptoms: abnormal angle and/or swelling to limb; suspect fracture or dislocation; paralysis

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MASSIVE INFECTION

Symptoms: dull/depressed; sunken eyes; temperature extremes (high or low); difficulty breathing



For additional resources visit nationaldairyfarm.com.



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