

BODY OF EVIDENCE		Farm name:		Date:	
INDICATOR	Target	Average score (if appropriate)	Satisfactory Y/N	Comment / Action required	
<b>ASK THE FARM MANAGER</b>					
Any unexpected / sudden change in milk volume?	On or above target				
Any unexpected / sudden change in milk fat or protein content?	On or above target				
Is BCS increasing, decreasing or being maintained	Cows should not lose more than 0.75 of a condition score between calving (BCS 3.5) and joining (BCS 2.75). Aim is to dry cows off and calve them in BCS 3.5				
<b>COW SIGNS</b>					
General cow appearance and health	Cows appear healthy, bright and alert, shiny coats. Rise easily from lying down, have good appetite (if grazing, they mix with others). General cow health? Incidence of mastitis, metabolic				
Cow behaviour	Cows are quiet and content				
First calvers - size	Are the first calvers at least 85% of mature liveweight?				
First calvers – demeanour	Are the first calvers settled into the herd and competing well with mature cows. Are they in good condition?				
Condition score	No cows less than BCS 2.5 or more than BCS 4. Cows are managed to dry off at BCS 3.5.				
Rumination	At least 50% of cows at rest (i.e. not feeding) are ruminating				
Rumen fill	Average rumen fill score for lactating cows should be 3. Dry cows may be 3 to 4				
Manure consistency	Average manure score should be 3. May range from 2 to 4				
Manure characteristics	Little long fibre or undigested grain present				
Locomotion score	Few lame cows present.				
<b>FEED SIGNS (incl. PASTURE SIGNS if grazing)</b>					
Fresh feed supplies	Empty feed troughs often indicates cows that are hungry. Do cows always have fresh feed available? Are feed troughs cleaned daily?				
Feed refusals	What is the amount and condition of feed refusals just before the next supply of fresh feed is supplied?				
Pasture grazing (need to observe the last paddock the cows grazed)	Are cows grazing too lax or too hard? Observe manure clumps (cows graze fairly close to manure heaps, but not right into them)				
Urine & excess protein?	Little evidence of ammonia smell from urine in cow shed and/or urine burns in grazed paddocks				