





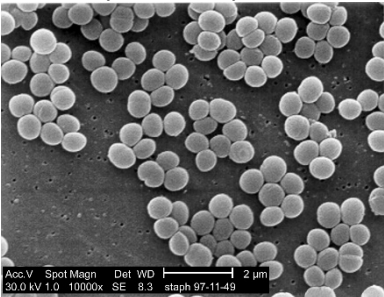



Factor	Impact on Cow	Management <u>or</u> Solution
<b>Dry Conditions</b> 	<p>Dry conditions can lead to feed shortages.</p> <p>Cows are comfortable between 5-20°C.</p>	<p>Ensure that silage is available or buy feed in.</p> <p>In dry hot conditions make sure clean drinking water is available, avoid shifting cows in the heat of the day and shade is available.</p>
<p>Dominant cows may inhibit submissive cows from eating when being feed out, drinking water, or lying down. Fresh cows, first-calf heifers and recently moved cows are often the submissive cows in a group. Larger cows, older cows and cows with more seniority in a group are often more dominant.</p>	<p>Some cows can lose condition because they cannot eat/ access as much feed.</p>	<p>Split them into smaller groups or supplementary feed the less dominate cows.</p> <p>Think about herd size and don't change it too often.</p> <p>Always try to introduce new cows in as a group.</p>
<p>Cows like routine and don't really like changes. E.g. New cows, technology, routine and people.</p>	<p>Makes the cows nervous and stressed.</p>	<p>Allow for extra time when changing the routine or introducing something new.</p>
<b>Treats (eg: Molasses)</b> 	<p>Cows like this treat and understand the opportunities to get it (human or machine).</p>	<p>Use in the dairy shed or yards to get them to like coming in and so they feel like they are safe places.</p> <p>Adding it to feed can increase their consumption of that feed.</p>
<b>Ruminating</b> 	<p>Cows like doing this and tend to ruminate when they are relaxed.</p>	<p>Cows tend to find time to ruminate as it is part of normal digestion. Giving them time during the day where they can sit or stand comfortably encourages rumination.</p>
<p>Animals of similar rank lick each other more often than animals of very different ranks.</p>	<p>Helps cows bond with each other and feel safe within the herd.</p>	<p>Large herds can be stressful on animals as they can only remember a set number of cows. If there is 1000 cow herd it can be beneficial to split it up into smaller herds and aim to keep the same cows in the same herd.</p>

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<b>Muddy Conditions</b> 	Can cause weak hooves and foot problems. Pug the ground (which affects grass growth up to 5 years) and health problems like mastitis.	Put cows in the race (laneway), standing pad or a sacrificial paddock.
<b>Walking long distances</b> 	Waste of energy which could be going into milk production and there is an opportunity cost as they lose time to eat and ruminate. Cows are also more likely to get sore feet and become lame.	Place milking shed at the centre of the farm.
<b>Yelling/ loud noises</b> 	Cows get stressed, don't want to be milked and hold milk up in their udder making it difficult for them to fully milk out which can lead to mastitis. They are also more nervous and likely to hurt themselves or the person managing them.	Don't yell or rush cows. Factor in extra time if they are nervous, give them treats in the shed, play music and keep to the routine.
<b>Boredom</b> Feeding vices can be attributed to boredom following a too rapid satisfying of their nutritional needs. These include dropping feed, feed throwing and water lapping.	Cows get bored and get into mischief that can sometimes lead to injury, or more farm work.	Ration the amount of high nutritional crop/ feed and ensure they have other feed that they can access.
<b>Tastes Okay</b> Ryegrass Pasture: Diploid  <b>DIPLOIDS</b>	Cows will slowly eat this but not enthusiastically.	Mix in with a more palatable (tastier grass). That way they eat it steadily throughout the day.

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<b>Brushes</b> 	<p>Cows really enjoy brushes. It feels good, allows them to scratch hard to reach areas easily and results in good coats. It has the added benefit of less wear and tear on fences and trees.</p>	<p>Install brushes on farm. To minimise cost installation can be on a feed pad or standing pad so you don't have to install one in every paddock but cows still have the opportunity to use it every day.</p>
<b>Having Friends</b> 	<p>Keeps cows calm and reduces stress significantly.</p>	<p>If bringing them into the yards or having to treat them for health issues ensure that they always have another cow with them, ideally cows that get along and like each other.</p>
<b>Walking on stones</b> 	<p>Uncomfortable for cows due to the way their hoofs are formed. Stones can stick up into the gap between the claws, and are uncomfortable to walk on.</p>	<p>Races (laneways) are often made of sand, pumice, limestone, sandstone, zeolite, woodchips, small stones and clay so they are easy and comfortable to walk on or stand on.</p>
<b>Mastitis:</b> inflammation of the udder usually caused by bacteria. 	<p>Very uncomfortable for the cow and can be painful. In bad causes milk comes out like cottage cheese, the udder is hard and it can be hard to milk the cow even though she is still producing milk.</p>	<p>Because it is bacterial antibiotics fight the infection and the cow is still milked which makes her more comfortable. Milk is put to the side and cannot be consumed by humans.</p>
<b>Favourite Ryegrass Pasture:</b> Tetraploid (tend to overeat)  <b>TETRAPLOIDS</b>	<p>Cows really enjoy eating this grass and will eat it quickly and overeat it. They will then not have a lot of grass left for the day and can get bored.</p>	<p>Mix it with a less palatable (tasty grass), so cows either need to pace themselves, or they need to search out the tasty ryegrass first then graze the less tasty ryegrass.</p>