

# BEST PRACTICE: DOWNER COW MANAGEMENT/TREATMENT

1. If a cow is unable to stand, inform the Farm Manager immediately
2. Obtain background information (cow #, DIM, lactation #)
3. Assess reason for being down (e.g. metabolic disorder, injury, other)
4. Inform your herd veterinarian about the downer cow
5. Take blood samples from tail or jugular vein before treatment
6. Start cow treatment accordingly (e.g. calcium, phosphorus, dextrose, anti-inflammatories)
7. Provide the downer cow good nursing care (deep bedding, feed & water, regular repositioning)
8. Cow should respond quickly to the treatment (within a couple of hours)
9. If the cow does not respond within 6-12 hours after treatment consult with veterinarian
10. If cow is down for 12-24 hours, consider using alternative treatments (e.g. flotation treatment)



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