**Management Practices to Reduce Lameness**

**Housing**

The size of the cow in relation to the size of the cubicle is vital as are the softness and cleanliness of the lying area. If the cubicle isn’t up to standard, this will increase the time that it takes a cow to lie down, which is a sign the stall isn’t comfortable for her. The more cubicles available to the cow the better. The housing area should also be kept as dry as possible as wetness can soften the horn and increase wear in relation to growth resulting in sole ulcers, cracks in the horn and other foot problems. Damp conditions also encourage bacterial growth and can lead to dermatitis and foot rot.

**Diet**

Ensure that cattle get enough energy but is also given enough forage to counteract the amount of acid that can build up in her rumen and cause lameness issues. Vitamin E/Selenium deficiency can lead to white muscle disease which results in lameness.

**Environment**

It is important to keep the area where she walks and milks dry and clean from slurry. Cement floors, especially when slatted, new and abrasive, can damage the hoof and weaken the soles, causing lesions and eventually infections and abscesses. Also, such floors become slippery due to wear, yet alternative rubber floors are difficult to clean with standard manure scrapers and, especially when solid, can be slippery despite the soft surface. Finding a combination of favourable features of the two types of floor that works best in each particular situation may be a process of trial and error.