# Minimising lameness



## Cows bunched, heads up in yard

Heads up suggest that the whole herd is too tightly packed. This will result in foot damage from twisting and turning and standing on gravel.



Cows spread out, heads down

Cows need space in the yard. Space allows a cow room to move gently forward and feel for a safe place to stand.



## Cows feet pushing at an angle

Cows pushing at an angle with their feet are avoiding pressure from the backing gate, top gate or milkers entering the yard. Pushing at an angle like this will damage the white-line of the foot.



# **Cows standing upright**

When cows are relaxed in the yard feet are at normal angles and won't be damaged.



#### Cows bunched up on track

Cows bunching up on the track is caused by too much herding pressure from behind. Often this happens at congestion points on the track. The result is poor foot placement and damage of the sole from track material.



#### **Cows spread out on track**

If cows are spread out and able to drift at their own pace, foot placement is good and wearing of the sole is minimal.



#### **Rocks and stones on concrete**

Rocks and gravel on concrete damage and penetrate the sole. They are painful to walk on. Poor cow flow into the shed results and makes the problem worse.



## Clean concrete

Clean concrete is non-damaging to a cow's foot. The yard is a 'friendly' place to enter.



#### dairynz.co.nz | 0800 4 DairyNZ (0800 4 324 7969)