SOP for Cow Comfort

Rumination

- > 20% decline in average rumination time of the herd?
  - No
  - Yes

- >= 60% lactating cows are ruminating at moment of observation
  - No
  - Yes

Change in ration?

- No
- Yes

Average lying time of herd < 12h/d

- Yes
- No

Good! Lactating cows ruminate 450-540 min/d. Variation in the group should be kept at a minimum (< 50 min between pen mates).

- Yes
- No

Reevaluate after 1 week.

Check external factors (e.g. heat stress). Consult veterinarian if problem persists.

Overstocking leads to competition. Some cows may eat, ruminate & rest too little. Try to reduce stocking density.

Lying behaviour

- >= 85% of herd is lying down at the moment of observation
  - Yes
  - No

Good! Cows require 12h-14h/day of rest. Since cows are herd animals, they prefer to be lying down at the same time.

- Yes
- No

Are more than 10% of cows either...:
  - * standing with only their front feet in the cubicle?
  - * lying diagonally across the cubicles?
  - * lying with their hind limbs in the passageway?

- No
- Yes

This is an indication that the cubicles might be too small for your cows. Discuss with your advisor which measure you can take (e.g. adjusting the brisket board, neck rail, ...)

Cubicles

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