

# Changes producers made to improve dairy cow welfare

**129 farmers made 163 changes to improve 16,300 dairy cows' welfare**

**28% of farmers made improvements to tracks and walkways**



28 farmers installed/improved tracks to prevent poaching and lameness



10 farmers improved concrete walkways to reduce injury



7 farmers installed rubber matting in the parlour, collecting yard or feed face to reduce sole ulcers

**13% of farmers increased space and access to resources**



11 farmers extended walkway, loafing and lying areas for better cow flow and positive social interactions



6 farmers increased feed and water trough space for better access to resources



4 farmers reduced stocking rates to create more space and access to resources

**21% of farmers improved cow comfort**



14 farmers built new housing  
6 farmers improved cubicle design  
5 farmers changed bedding material to sand or sawdust  
5 farmers installed mattresses  
4 farmers increased the amount of cubicle bedding

**9% of farmers improved housing**



7 farmers improved ventilation  
5 farmers installed grooming brushes  
3 farmers improved lighting for a more natural, even distribution

**8% of farmers improved lameness prevention and treatment**



10 farmers started routine trimming or improved trimming facilities



4 farmers employed a lameness reduction programme including early detection and treatment of lame cows

**8% of farmers further improved cow welfare**



6 farms improved stock keeper training  
4 farmers started using cow based indicators (welfare outcomes)  
4 farmers started cross breeding for increased hybrid vigour

**7% of farmers improved the prevention of mastitis**



6 farmers improved targeted mastitis treatment

5 farmers improved cluster and teat hygiene at milking

**6% of farmers improved calf welfare**



6 farmers provided new or improved housing

3 improved ventilation, and infection control to reduce pneumonia and diarrhoea

NB Data was collected from 129 farmers between October 2013 – November 2014 where a total of 163 changes were made, ranging from 1-3 changes per farm. The total number of cows affected by changes is 16,300 (average herd size 126, range 4-500 cows).

**Have you considered making similar changes?**

Contact Jess and Kate to discuss and share your ideas or for more information and support [animalwelfareadvisor@assurewel.org](mailto:animalwelfareadvisor@assurewel.org)

