

Technical efficiency



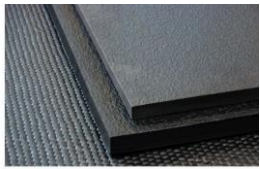
Animal welfare



Background

Concrete is a hard and abrasive surface for cows to stand and walk on. Rubber matting is designed to increase grip and create a softer surface, increasing cow comfort and health. Farmers should consider implementing rubber matting in high risk and high use areas to improve animal welfare and production.

How does the strategy work?



Identify high risk and high use areas to install rubber matting



Measure the area that requires matting



Select a company with reputable and high-quality rubber matting



Clean the area and install mats as instructed by the company

Positive features

- Rubber matting creates a softer non-slip surface compared to concrete flooring, which can lead to:
 - Improved cow flow → reduce milking time;
 - Reduced lameness;
 - Decreased hock and knee injuries
 - Improved hygiene;
 - Increased feed intake → increased milk production (when matting is present at the feed face).
- Studies have also shown that cows show a preference to walking and standing on rubber matting compared to concrete

Be careful, especially on these points

- Rubber matting can lead to reduced claw wear compared to concrete flooring → higher risk of overgrown hooves

Specific advice

- Rubber matting should not be placed in all alleys
- Rubber matting should be placed in high risk (i.e. where sharp turns are present) and high use areas (i.e. at the feed manger)
- Ensure matting is high quality and cattle specific

Equipment involved? Investment?



Contact company for prices

Grants may be available to help pay for rubber matting

Assessment of method



Quote of the farmer:

"I have seen a reduction in lameness since installing rubber matting in the shed. The cows also choose to stand on the rubber over the concrete flooring"