**Examining Cow for Lameness**

There are 8 simple steps to follow to examine the lameness in a cow.

1. Watch cow when it is walking and correctly identify the lame leg.

A cow lame in front limb, it will lift its head when sore foot is on the ground. A cow lame in hind limb, it will lower its head when the sore foot hits the ground

1. Observe swelling above the claws, comparing with other hooves
2. Check hooves for differences with other feet eg for the presence of wounds/sores/abscesses
3. Secure cow in crush and life leg with proper techniques for closer observation.

Clean hooves and check claws for stones/ injury

1. Use hoof testers on the predilection sites/ weight-bearing surfaces of the sole and between the claws to search for any sensitive areas.

The predilection sites include:- along the white line, the toes and in between the digits.

Pain responses– twitching of muscles further up the same leg.

1. Sand away superficial outer surfaces of sole to find lesion.
2. Pay attention to white line of sole for abnormalities.
3. If no abnormalities are found or no pain responses observed, then examine upper legs for the source of lameness.

Diagram

Description automatically generated