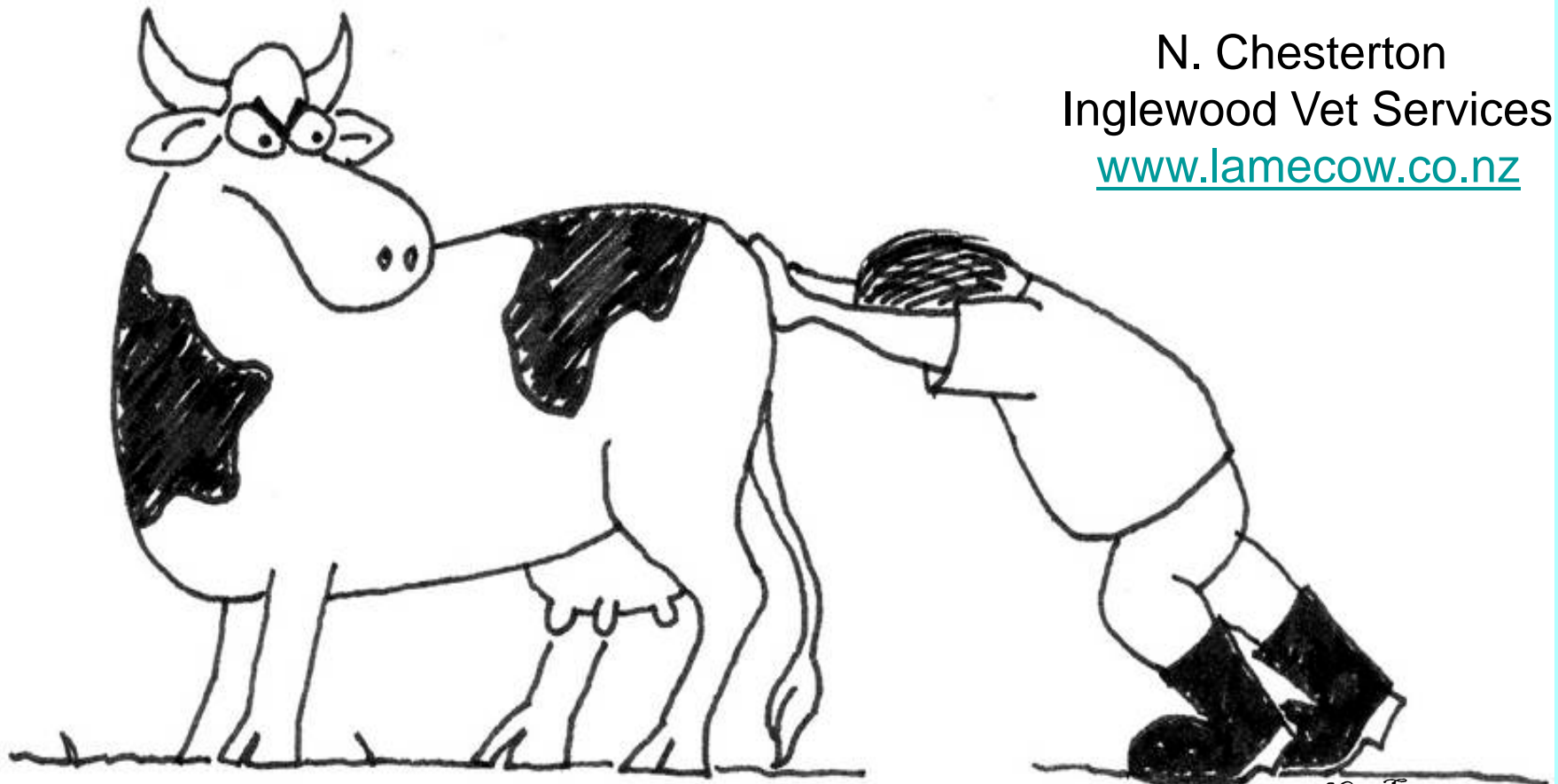


Cow Behaviour, Cow Flow and Lameness

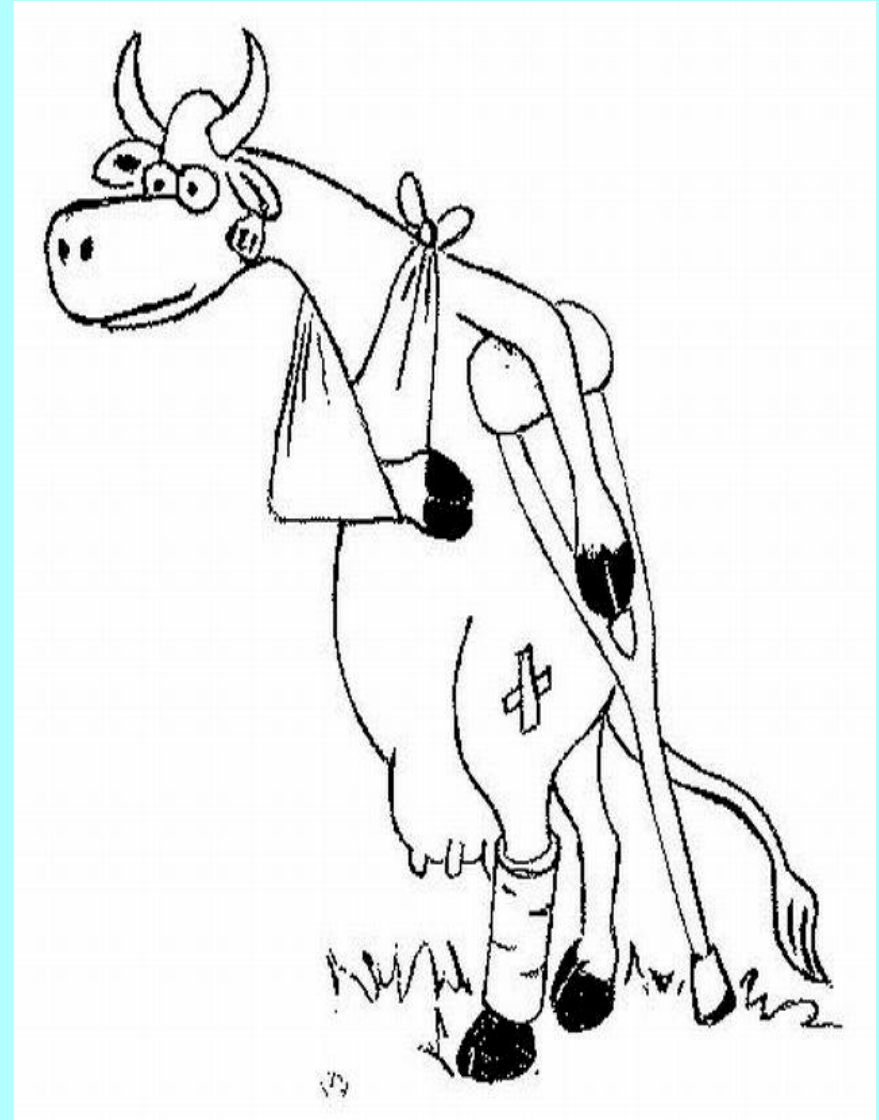


N. Chesterton
Inglewood Vet Services
www.lamecow.co.nz

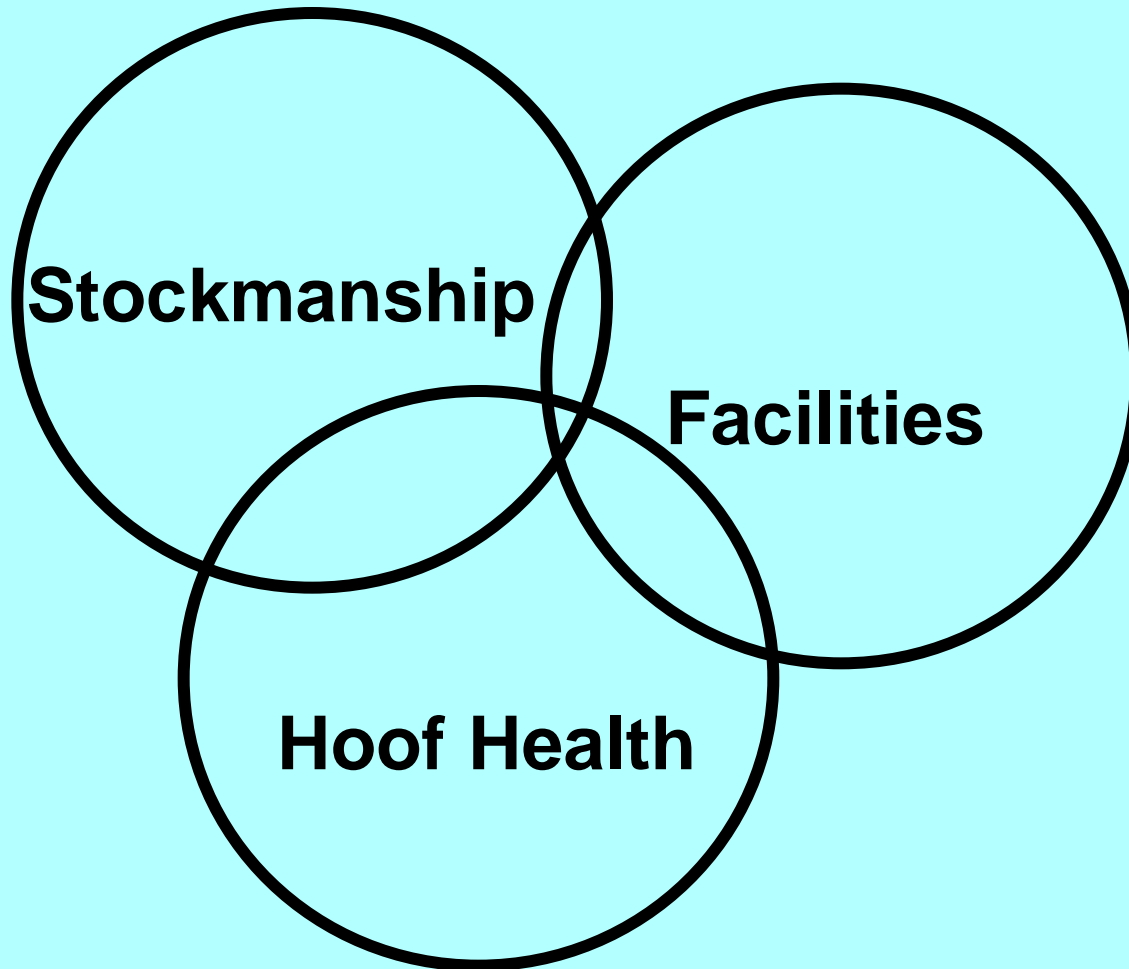
S. Bateman

The Big Lameness Problem

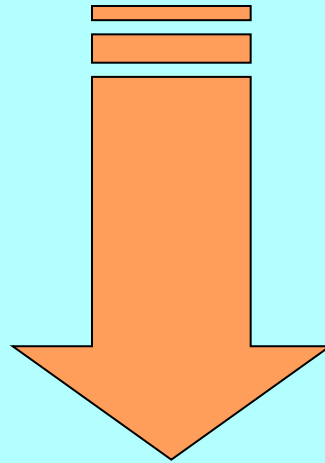
- Surprising cost
 - \$\$\$
 - welfare cost
- What is achievable?
- Multifactorial



**Where does lameness come from?
It is multifactorial.**



FOOT WEAR



LAMENESS

Foot wear

- First three months
- Distance walked
- Track surface
- Concrete surface
- Pressure

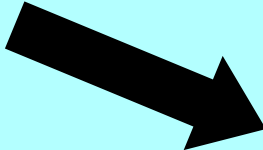


Excessive Foot Wear



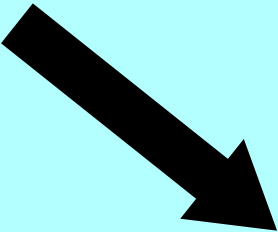
Thin sole

+?

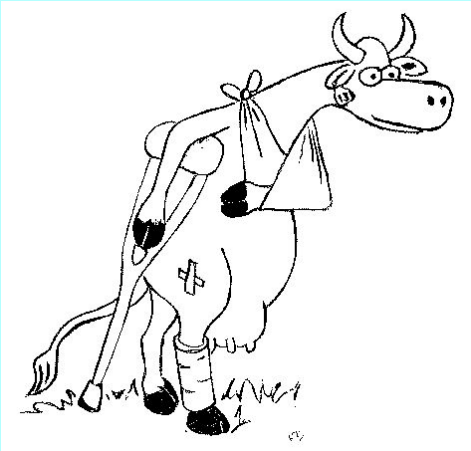


Sole bruising
Sole penetration

+?



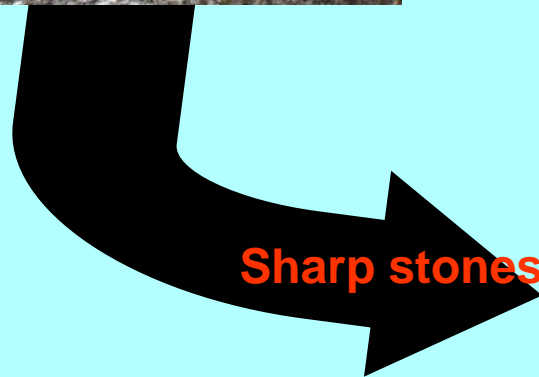
Separation of
white line



Worn soles + poor track surface



Sole Penetrations



Preventing sole injuries

- Reduce wear
- Voluntary flow on tracks
- Maintain tracks
- Prevent gravel from getting on concrete





- sound base
- suitable surface
- compaction
- crowning
- drainage

Worn Soles + impatience or pressure



White line separation

Twisting and turning

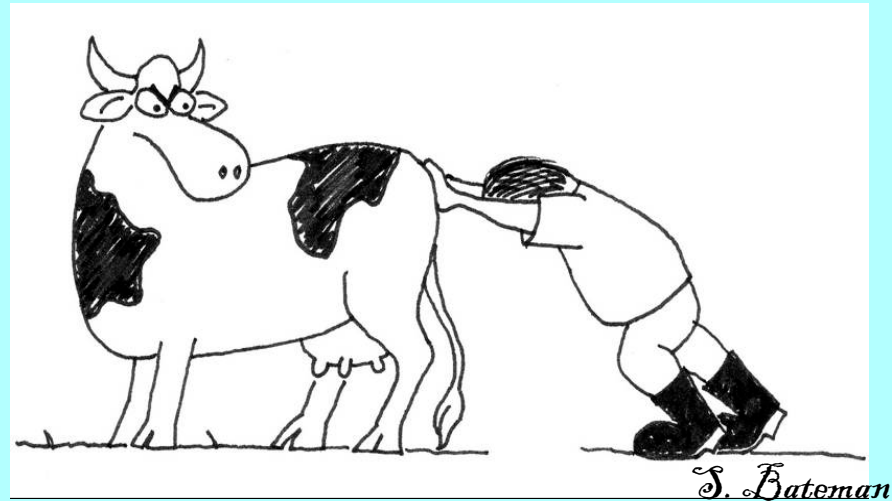


White line is becoming the most common lameness seen as herd sizes grow.

Preventing white line injuries

- Reduce wear

- Voluntary flow



- Prevent slipping, twisting and turning
 - good facilities
 - good stock management

Patience!!!!!!

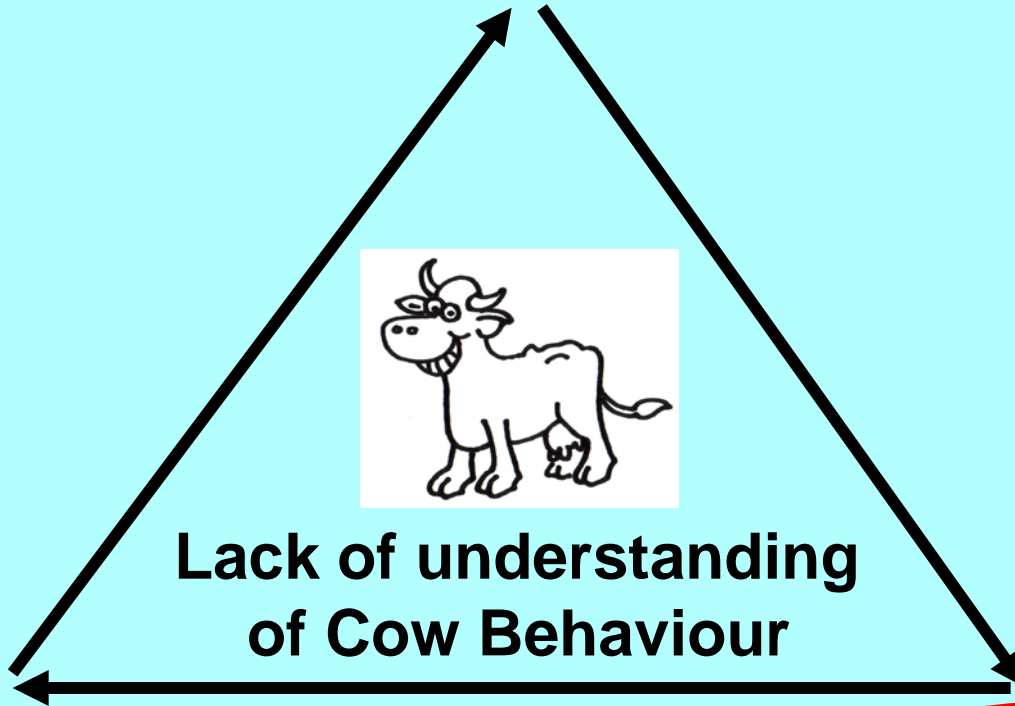
Poor Cow Flow



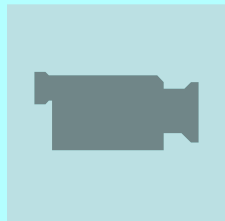
**Lack of understanding
of Cow Behaviour**

Pressure

Impatience



Does this person understand cow behaviour?



Does this person understand cow behaviour?



NO!!!

Things that he did incorrectly:

Appeared quickly

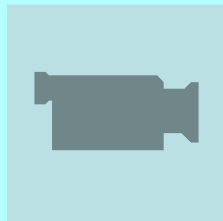
In front of the cows

Comes out

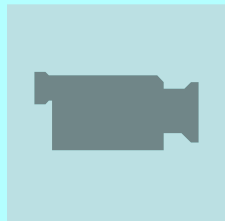
Too close

Stick

Blind spot



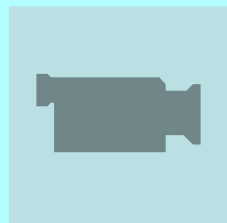
Does this person understand cow behaviour?



Does this man understand cow behaviour?



Yes!!
Balance points
Slow and steady



Results of handling styles

- First video –
pressure, twisting and turning, cows afraid,
LAME COWS
- Second video -
Calm, no pressure, no twisting less stress
NO FOOT DAMAGE

Cow behaviour

- What does a herdsman need to know to improve their stockmanship and reduce lameness?

1. Walking and milking orders
2. Flight distance/balance points

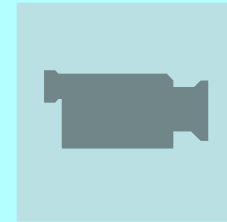


Cow Behaviour

- **Walking order and Milking order different**



[Video changing order](#)



Cow Behaviour

- Like to be close but not too close
- Cows need space

Signs of Pressure

- Sideways pushing
- Cows reversing
- Heads up

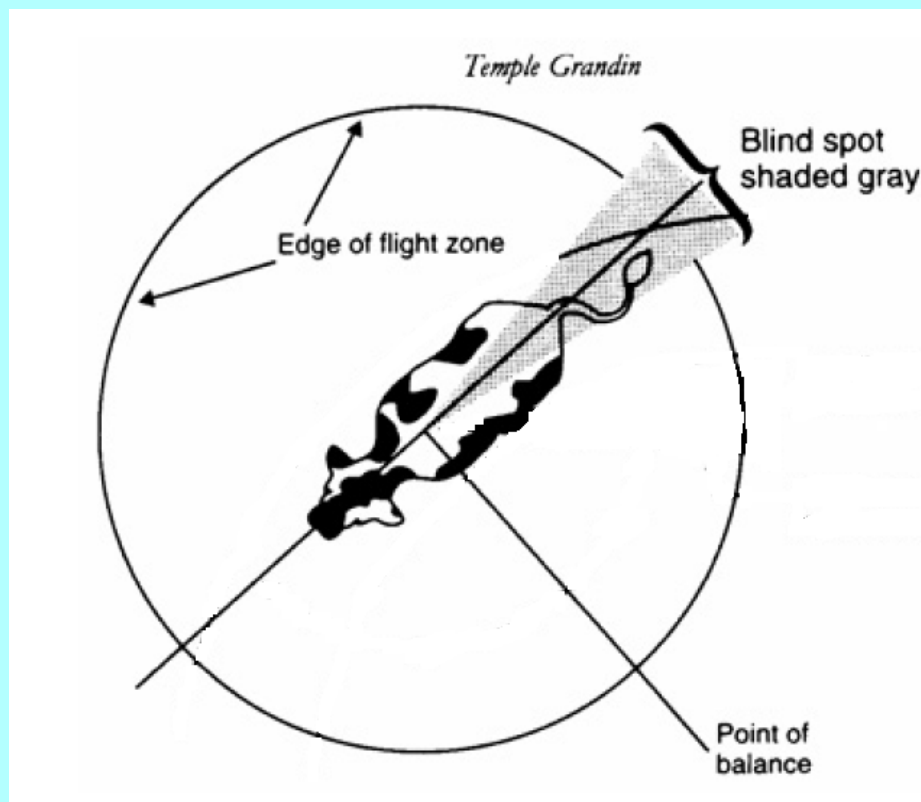


[Too tight in yard](#)



Cow behaviour

Flight zone and balance points



[Cow jumps](#)

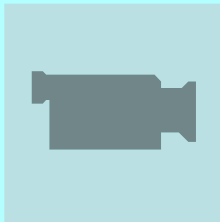
[Balance points demo](#)

Escuela Veija

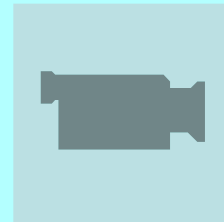
Good stockmanship

- Understand cow behaviour
- Work with the cows not against them

Kuklinski



Escuela Veija



Management Guidelines

- Allow the cows to drift on the track.
- Start milking as first cows arrive
- Delay movement of backing gate
 - (at least 2 rows)
- Gate speed – 12 m / minute for round yards
 - 6 m / min for rectangular yards
- Timer switch on gate
- Avoid coming out into yard
- Call cows into the bails.
- All staff use same routines, calls





Thank you