**PREVENT**

1. Ensure cows are **consuming a balanced ration** to prevent metabolic disease and manage body condition.
2. Ensure cows are able to **rise soon after calving**.
3. **Observe cows daily** for any abnormal activities.
4. Ensure employees are trained in low-stress cow handling and that alleyways are properly maintained to **prevent cows from slips and falls** and for proper feet and leg support.

**PLAN**

1. Identify **who is trained** and should be called in a non-ambulatory cow situation.
2. Have a team **trained to properly move** a non-ambulatory cow.
3. Have a written non-ambulatory cow **protocol**.
4. Have an **identified hospital area**.
5. **REMAIN CALM**

**CARE**

1. Provide **deep bedding** at least 6” deep – sand is best.
2. Provide **safe shelter** from the elements and away from cows.
3. Put **feed and water in tubs** that do not tip over and are within easy reach - **check availability at least twice a day**.
4. Lift the cow using **proper protocol** or roll her onto her other side twice a day.
5. Consult with your herd veterinarian about a **proper treatment plan** for the cow.
6. **Never drag cows**.

**ASSIST THE COW TO STAND IF**

a physical exam and initial treatment have been completed and she:

- Is bright and alert
- Is not severely trembling or twitching
- Does not have evidence of severe disease
- Does not appear severely weak
- Appears to have normal and functioning limbs

**COMMON CAUSES**

**5 Ms**

- **MILK FEVER**
  - Symptoms: dull/weak; trembling/twitching; temperature below 101°F; cold, droopy ears

- **TOXIC MASTITIS**
  - Symptoms: dull/weak; temperature extremes (high or low); sunken eyes; abnormal milk; heat, pain and swelling of one or more quarters

- **TOXIC METRITIS**
  - Symptoms: dull/weak; temperature extremes (high or low); sunken eyes; watery, colored or cloudy vaginal discharge and odor

- **MUSCULOSKELETAL DAMAGE**
  - Symptoms: abnormal angle and/or swelling to limb; suspect fracture or dislocation; paralysis

- **MASSIVE INFECTION**
  - Symptoms: dull/depressed; sunken eyes; temperature extremes (high or low); difficulty breathing