**Downer Cow Syndrome**

*Also Called:* no other common names

*Affecting:* mature cows

*Occurrence:* in conjunction with cows suffering from either milk fever or grass tetany;

*Signs:* good appetite; slightly higher temperature; heart rate 80-100 beats/min.; unable to stand though they will attempt to; dull and depressed; duration of 1-2 weeks

*Cause:* ineffective treatment of underlying disorder resulting in prolonged periods of recumbency

*Diagnosis:* signs; low inorganic phosphate, potassium or glucose; ketonuria; proteinuria; elevated creatine phosphokinase and aminotransferase; edema; hemorrhage of large medial thigh muscles

*Remedy:* ensure good sources of feed and water; good bedding with a sand or dirt base; roll animal side to side every few hours; provide electrolytes when necessary

*Prevention:* immediate treatment of milk fever or grass tetany when signs are first recognized; treat high risk cows, regardless of signs, with calcium oral gel

*Also Consider:* milk fever, grass tetany, coliform mastitis, maternal obstetrical paralysis, fat cow syndrome, physical injury to pelvic appendages, peritonitis

Cattle exhibiting difficulty in standing may be affected by a variety of disorders.