Tail twisting is used by some handlers as a method to prompt cattle movement.

**CHALLENGE:** When used inappropriately with excessive force, tail twisting can lead to a broken tail.

229 cows from one dairy farm were assessed.

A tail was classified as unbroken if it laid straight when at rest and as broken if there were deviations in the tail when at rest.

**FINDINGS**

Prevalence of broken tails: 45.8% (105/229)

- Broken tails were more common in cows who had more than one calf than first calf heifers.
- Cows who were treated 2+ times for mastitis were more likely to have a broken tail than cows who were never treated or only treated once for mastitis.


Infographic made by Ashlynn Kirk.