Understanding Cow Body Language

Happy/relaxed cow body language

- Tail down/relaxed when standing.
- Eyes relaxed or half closed.
- Ears relaxed or held backwards.
- Lying comfortably and ruminating.
- Engaging in natural cow behaviours such as grazing, chewing grass, relaxing, and spending time with other cows.

Excited/playful cow body language

- Tail raised when playing, wagging, or held away from body.
- Ears back or assymetric.
- Calves engaging in natural play behaviours such as jumping, kicking, galloping, and running.

Angry/unhappy cow body language

- Eyes wide, lots of white showing.
- Standing with back arched, head low.
- Ears alert, facing towards approaching threat.
- Bellowing (could mean hunger or pain).
- Tail hanging straight or tucked under body between legs.
- Cow standing separate from the rest of the herd.