How does digital dermatitis impact the gait of beef cattle?

**What is Digital Dermatitis (DD)?**
Bacterial disease affecting the feet of cattle

**DD lesion stages**
- Active DD lesions
- DD absent
- Chronic DD lesions

**Assessing changes in gait**
- Observe cattle walking on flat surface
- Use reliable scoring system

**Did you know?**
DD does not always result in lameness (deviation in gait or posture)

**What we found:**
- Beef cattle with DD have a greater odds of having altered gait and being lame
- Reluctance to bear weight and asymmetric gait had the strongest association with cattle with DD

**What this means:**
- Lameness score is still the best tool to detect DD
- Reluctance to bear weight and asymmetric gait should be prioritized when assessing cattle for DD