



Body Condition Score Description of Cattle

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Body Condition Score	Body Fat Content	Appearance of Cow
1	3.8	Shoulder, rib, back, hook and pin bones prominent, sharp to touch, and easily visible; little evidence of fat deposits or muscling.
2	7.5	Spinous processes feel sharp to touch and are easily seen, with space between them; little evidence of fat deposits some muscling in hindquarters.
3	11.3	Backbone highly visible, spinous processes individually felt, may be visible, space between processes less pronounced; beginning of fat cover over loin, back and fore ribs.
4	15.1	Fore ribs not noticeable, 12 th and 13 th ribs can be seen, transverse spinous processes not visible but felt with slight pressure, they feel rounded not sharp; full but straightness of muscling in hindquarters.
5	18.9	Ribs, including 12 th and 13 th , not visible, transverse spinous processes and space between can only be felt with firm pressure, they feel rounded; areas on sides of tail head are well filled but not mounded.
6	22.6	Ribs fully covered not visible, firm pressure required to feel transverse processes; hindquarters plump and full, noticeable sponginess over fore ribs and at sides of tail head.
7	26.4	Ends of spinous process felt only with firm pressure, spaces between barely distinguished; abundant fat cover on sides of tail head, some patchiness evident.
8	30.2	Bone structure disappearing, body is taking on a smooth, blocky appearance; fat cover thick and spongy.
9	33.9	Bone structure not seen or easily felt; tail head buried in fat, animal's mobility may be impaired by excess fat.

Adapted from NRC Nutrient requirements of beef cattle, 2000.

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BCS 4



BCS 5-



BCS 5



BCS 7+

