

BODY CONDITION SCORING

Body condition is an important production measure to properly manage. Energy reserves in the form of fat and muscle impact a variety of production measures, including reproductive success. Body condition should be evaluated at least four times a year including: 1) 90 days before calving, 2) At calving, 3) Beginning of the breeding season, and 4) At weaning. When assessed at these times, there is opportunity to change body condition prior to the increasing energy demands from the cow. Ideal body condition is a score of 5.

For **SUBMISSION OF BODY CONDITION SCORES**, they must be taken +/- 45 days of weaning and a cow weight must also be submitted. Submit information through AAA Login.

GUIDELINES:

- Cow weight must also be recorded
- Cow BCS must be taken +/- 45 days of calf weaning **this is the reported score*
- Collect after cow has weaned first calf and in subsequent years
- Cow hip height can also be collected at this time, though not required

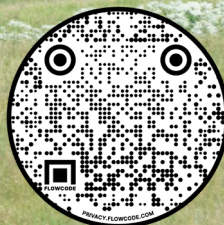


Compare body conditions in your herd to this female that represents a BCS of 6.

BODY CONDITION SCORECARD FOR CATTLE

Physical Attribute							
	BCS	Spine	Ribs	Hooks/Pins	Tailhead	Brisket	Muscling
Thin	1	Visible	Visible	Visible	No Fat	No Fat	None/Atrophy
	2	Visible	Visible	Visible	No Fat	No Fat	None/Atrophy
Borderline	3	Visible	Visible	Visible	No Fat	No Fat	None
	4	Slightly Visible	Foreribs Visible	Visible	No Fat	No Fat	Full
Optimum Condition	5	Not Visible	1 or 2 may be visible	Visible	No Fat	No Fat	Full
	6	Not Visible	Not Visible	Visible	Some Fat	Some Fat	Full
Over Conditioned	7	Not Visible	Not Visible	Slightly Visible	Fat	Fat	Full
	8	Not Visible	Not Visible	Not Visible	Abundant Fat	Abundant Fat	Full
	9	Not Visible	Not Visible	Not Visible	Extremely Fat	Extremely Fat	Full

*Adapted from Herd & Sprott, 1986; BCS = body condition score
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