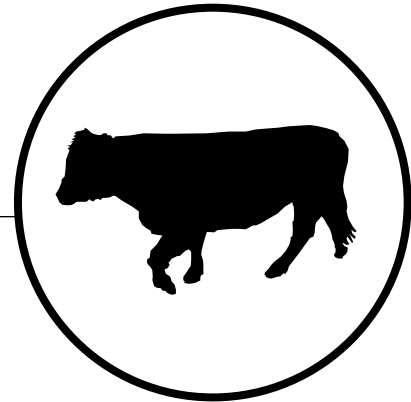


What's the Score: Beef Cow

BODY CONDITION SCORING (BCS) GUIDE

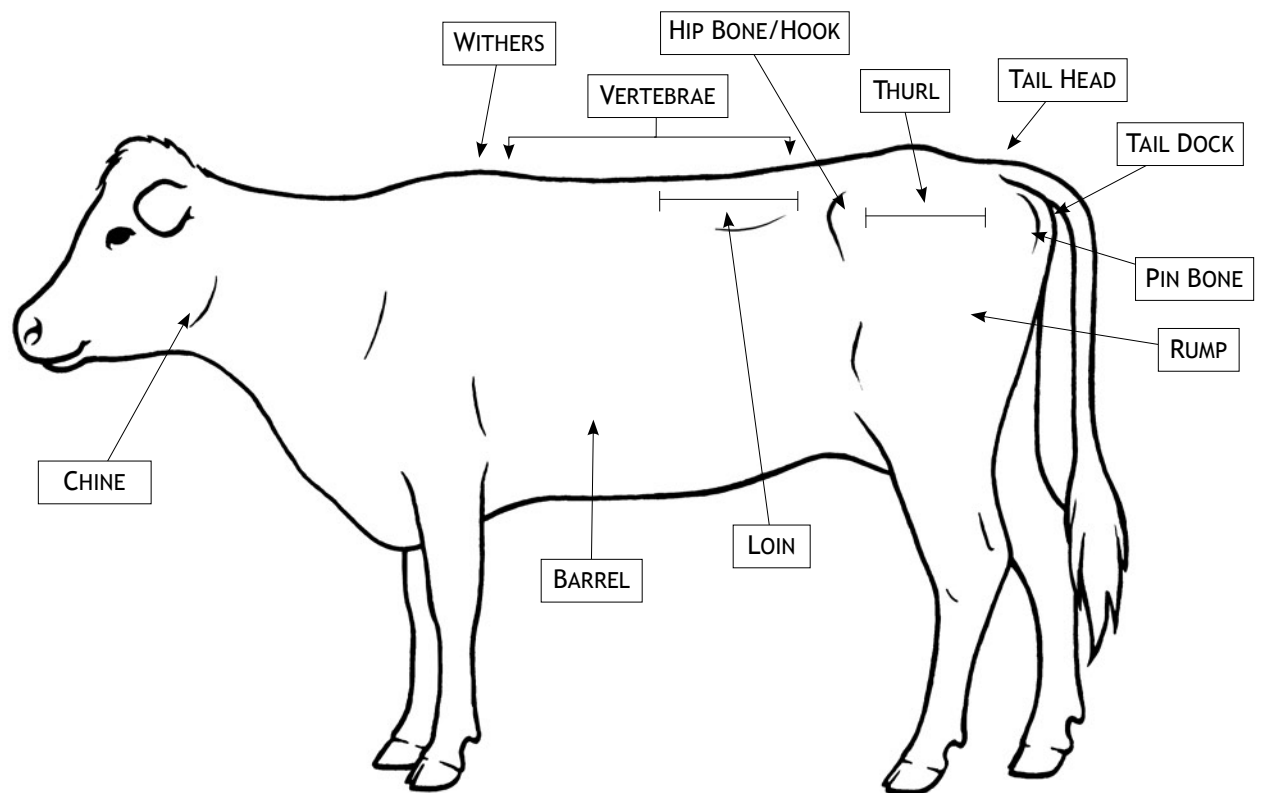


CONTENTS

- Page 2:** Labelled illustration of a Beef Cow.
- Page 3:** Cross section of the loin area.
- Page 4:** Overview of all the body condition scores for a Beef Cow. Each body condition score will have an illustration to match and describe what you should be looking for in determining the body condition score of your animals.

LABELLED ILLUSTRATION OF A BEEF COW

Illustration of a Beef Cow with a BCS score of 3.



CROSS SECTION OF THE LOIN AREA

Generic Cross Section of the Loin Area.

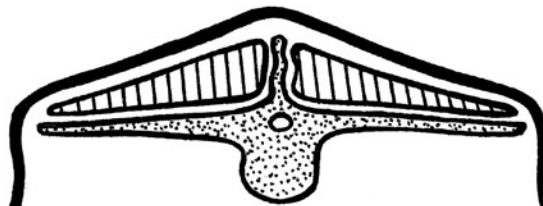
BCS 1



BCS 2



BCS 3



BCS 4



BCS 5



BODY CONDITION SCORES FOR BEEF COWS

Overview of all the body condition scores for Beef Cows

BCS 1:

ENTIRE ANIMAL

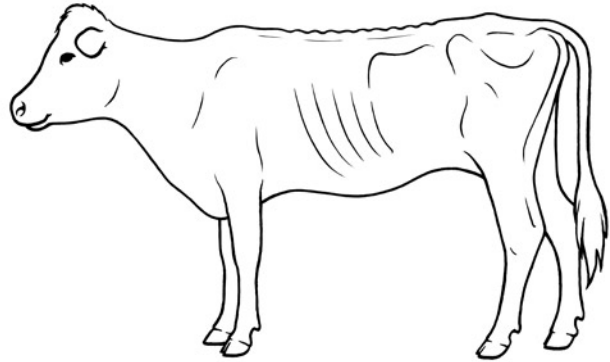
- Extremely thin
- No fat in brisket or tail docks
- All skeletal structures are visible
- No muscle tissue evident
- No external fat present
- Dull hair
- Survival during stress doubtful

BACK BONE

- Individual vertebrae well defined, sharp
- Can place fingers between each vertebrae

SHORT RIBS

- Visually prominent
- No fat present
- Very sharp to the touch



BCS 2:

ENTIRE ANIMAL

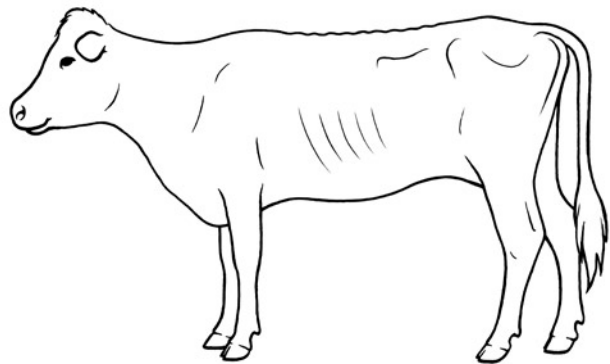
- Thin
- Upper skeleton prominent (vertebra, hips, pin bones)
- Muscle tissue evident, but not abundant,
- Some tissue cover around the tail dock, over the hip bones and the flank

BACK BONE

- Individual vertebrae can be felt, but not as sharp
- Can't place fingers between vertebrae

SHORT RIBS

- Feel individual ribs, sharp rather than very sharp.
- Identify individual ribs visually



BCS 3:

ENTIRE BODY

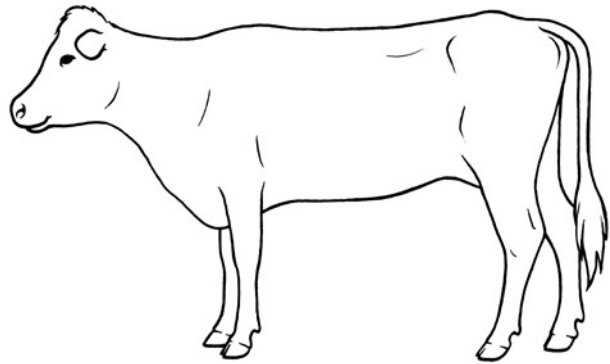
- Ideal flesh for calving
- Ribcage only slightly visible
- Hooks and pins visible, but not prominent
- Muscle tissue nearing maximum
- Fat deposit behind shoulder obvious
- Fat in brisket area
- Tail docks easily felt

BACK BONE

- Somewhat defined
- Difficult to feel top of vertebrae

SHORT RIBS

- Completely covered with fat, beginning to spread over rump
- Individual ribs only felt with firm pressure



BCS 4:

ENTIRE BODY

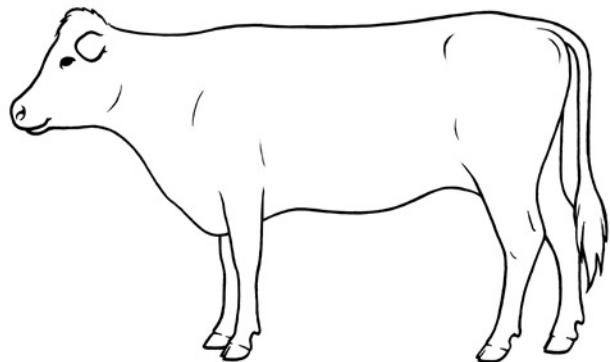
- Skeletal structure difficult to identify
- Obvious fat deposits behind shoulder, and at tail head
- Fat on brisket and over shoulder

BACK BONE

- Flat appearance to the top line
- Can't feel individual vertebrae

SHORT RIBS

- Folds of fat beginning to develop over the ribs and thighs
- Can't feel individual ribs, even with firm pressure



BCS 5:

ENTIRE BODY

- Obese
- Flat appearance dominates
- Brisket heavy
- Bone structure not noticeable, “blocky” appearance
- Tail head and hip bones almost completely buried in fat and folds of fat

BACK BONE

- Flat back
- Can’t feel backbone

SHORT RIBS

- Completely covered by fat
- Mobility impaired by large amounts of fat

