



BCS 3 – Very thin. All ribs and back bone easily visible and no apparent fat deposits anywhere on the body. Individual vertebrae are visible along the back bone. Some muscle wasting is evident in the hind quarter.



BCS 4 – Thin. Ribs and backbone visible, but individual vertebrae not visible. No muscle wasting. Sunk in appearance around the tail head.



BCS 5 – Moderate condition. Last two or three ribs usually visible, and little fat is evident in the brisket or around tail head, but area around the tail head is not sunken.



BCS 6 – Smooth appearance. Ribs not easily visible. A small amount of fat is evident around the tail head and in the brisket.

BCS 7 – Fleshy appearance. Brisket and tail head have considerable fat deposits, and the back has a flattened appearance.



Body Condition Scoring 1-9 Scale

From On Pasture
www.OnPasture.com

Reference point	Body Condition Scores								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Physically weak	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Muscle atrophy	yes	yes	slight	no	no	no	no	no	no
Outline of spine visible	yes	yes	yes	slight	no	no	no	no	no
Outline of ribs visible	all	all	all	3-5	1-2	0	0	0	0
Outline of hip & pin bones visible	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	slight	no	no
Fat in brisket and flanks	no	no	no	no	no	some	full	full	extreme
Fat udder & patchy fat around tail head	no	no	no	no	no	no	slight	yes	extreme
<i>(Modified from Pruitt, 1994.)</i>									

Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension Check list