



National Department of Agriculture  
ARC-Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute

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## Condition scoring of cattle

### How to do it:

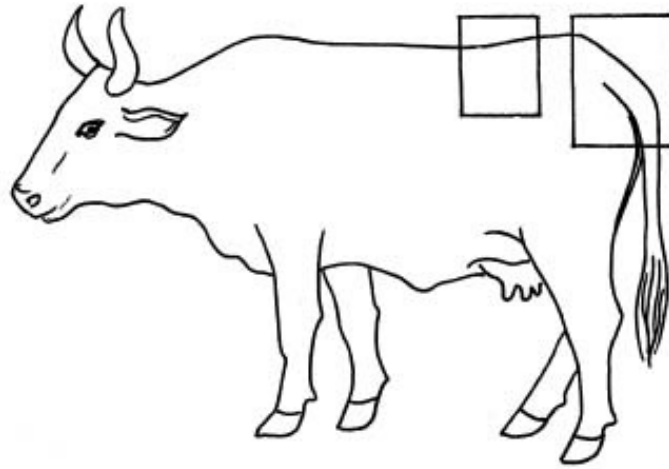
Feel the amount of fat under the skin in 2 areas:

- ◆ A. Loin area between hip bone and last rib
- ◆ B. Area around the tail head

Use condition scoring to determine if:

- ◆ Your cattle are in a satisfactory condition for breeding and production
- ◆ Your animals are sick and losing condition

**A      B**



Untitled1



Always **feel** the areas as well as looking at the condition

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**Condition is scored from 1 to 5**

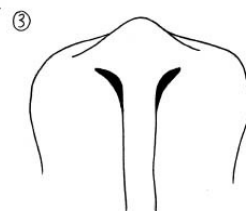
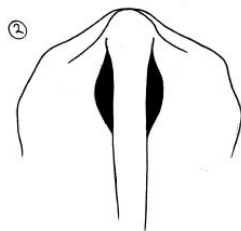
**1** = too thin

**4** = fat

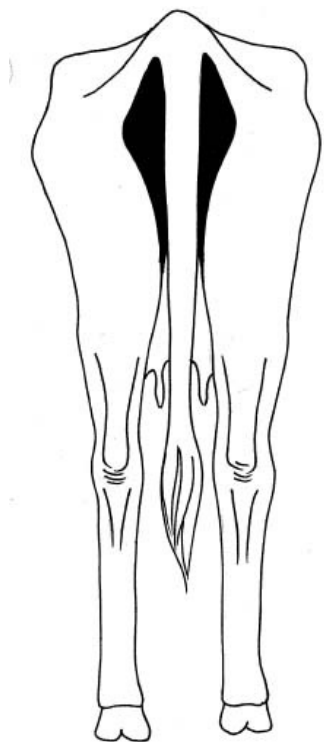
**2** = thin, but healthy

**5** = much too fat

**3** = ideal condition

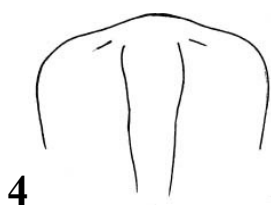


**3**

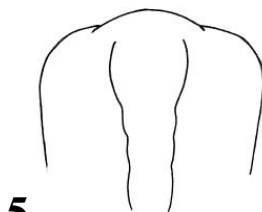


1

2



4



5

- ◆ **Condition score 3 is the ideal condition**
- ◆ **Condition score should not drop below 2**
- ◆ **Animals that are too fat can have problems with breeding and calving**

For further information contact  
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