

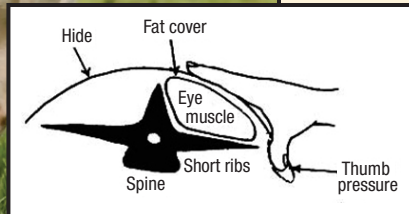
**Maintaining body condition scores year-round increases profit.**

**Optimum Body Condition =  
Maximum Production**



To determine the amount of fat an animal is carrying, use body condition scoring (BCS), an easy hands-on measure. This 1 to 5 rating system is based on the feel of an animal rather than visual appraisal. A score of 1 is extremely thin, and 5 is very fat. Ideally you want to manage your cows to have a BCS of 2.5 to 3. Feel for fat cover with your hands at:

1) the short ribs, 2) the spine, 3) the hook and pins, and 4) either side of the tail head. An animal in optimum condition will have a thin layer of fat in these areas, so it will take some pressure to feel the bones.



**Did you know that your cow herd reproduction is the most important factor affecting your profitability?**

*It is **5X** more important than growth rate and **10X** more important than carcass quality when it comes to **profit**.*

**Benefits of an ideal Body Condition Score (BCS) of 2.5 to 3:**

- Cows return to heat and rebreed up to 30 days sooner
- Pregnancy rates DOUBLE those of thin cows
- Shorter breeding and calving seasons yield a more uniform calf crop
- Increased milk production and colostrum quality
- Healthier calves that wean at heavier weights
- Improved heifer development
- Higher salvage value of culls



**Did you know that every time your cow misses a breeding cycle it will cost you 42 lbs. in calf weaning weight?**

*Cows at an optimum body condition score will rebreed **2X** sooner than thin cows.*

Cows at a healthy body condition demonstrate our industry's dedication to animal husbandry. Thin cows reflect poorly on the entire industry. Do your part to be profitable and accountable.

Investing a few minutes of your time at chute side to body condition score your cows is easy to learn, inexpensive and could be the single most effective thing you do to increase your profitability.

***Make BCS part of routine management. Can you afford not to?***

To learn more about how and why a BCS of 2.5 to 3 pays, talk to your veterinarian and visit [www.bodyconditionscoring.ca](http://www.bodyconditionscoring.ca).

