How to Body Condition Score Sheep

Body Condition Scoring (BCS)

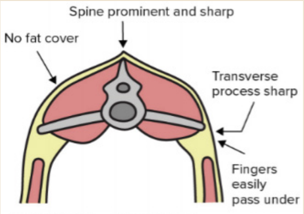
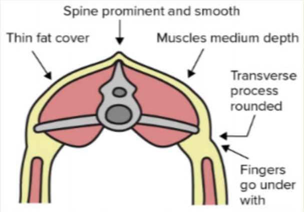
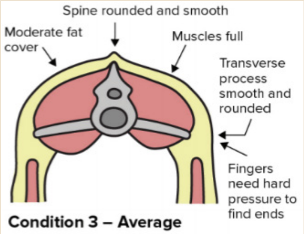
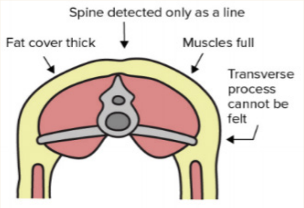
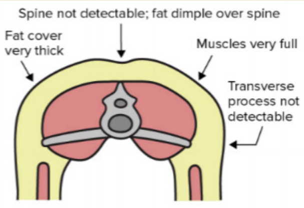
Body Condition Scoring (BCS) is a simple, effective and cheap management tool to assess the body reserves of adult sheep. BCS is a simple manual check to assess the amount of fat cover and muscle mass which can be scored between 1 (thin) and 5 (fat) and increases in increments of 0.5.

Importance of BCS

It takes 8 weeks for ewes to gain one BCS score as it equates to about 12% of liveweight. This is why it is important to BCS ewes at the key times of the year to reach target BCS. Ewes should be BCS at least 12 weeks pre-tupping and pre-lambing. Raising a ewe's BCS from 2 to 3.5 can increase fertility by up to 20% and can also ensure healthy lambs and a good ewe milk supply. When identifying lean ewes, it is worth investigating the cause as it may be a result of an underlying health issue for example and infectious disease or lameness.

How to BCS?

To BCS, feel along the spine and assess how much fat is between the loin muscles

1	• Very thin • Ribs clearly visible • Vertebrae clearly visible • Tail feels bony	There is no fat cover so the vertical and horizontal processes are easily felt and are sharp. The fingers can be pushed easily below the horizontals and each process can be felt. The loin muscle is shallow.	 Condition 1 – Emaciated
2	• Thin • Ribs faintly visible • Vertebrae prominent • Tail bone easily detectable	There is little fat cover so the vertebrae are prominent but smooth, individual processes being felt only as ridges. The horizontal processes are smooth and rounded, but it is still possible to press the fingers under. The loin muscle is of moderate depth.	 Condition 2 – Thin
3	• Good condition • Ribs generally not visible • Vertebrae is smooth and rounded • Tail bones barely detectable	There is moderate fat cover so the vertebrae are smooth and rounded; the bone is only felt with pressure. The ribs are also smooth and well covered; hard pressure with the fingers is needed to find the ends. The loin muscle is full.	 Condition 3 – Average
4	• Fat • Ribs well covered • Vertebrae only detected as a line • Tail firm and rounded	There is a thick covering of fat so the vertebrae are only detectable as a line; the ribs cannot be felt and the loin muscles are full.	 Condition 4 – Fat
5	• Obese • Ribs very well covered • Vertebrae cannot be detected • Tail fat and broad	There is a layer of very thick fat so the vertebrae cannot be detected even with pressure; there is a dimple in the fat layers where the processes should be. The ribs cannot be identified and the loin muscles are very full.	 Condition 5 – Obese

Sut i roi Sgôr Cyflwr Corff i Ddefaid

Sgôr Cyflwr Corff (SCC) Defaid

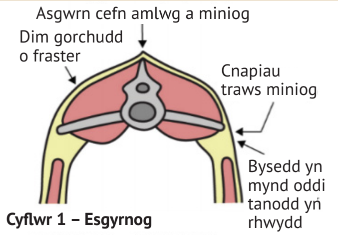
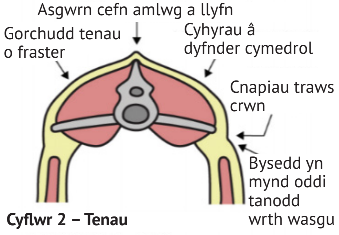
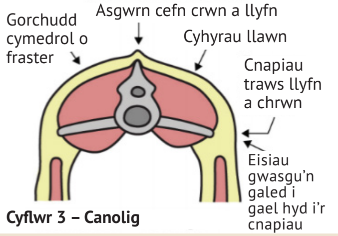
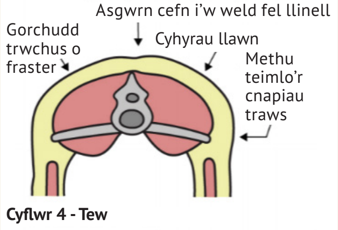
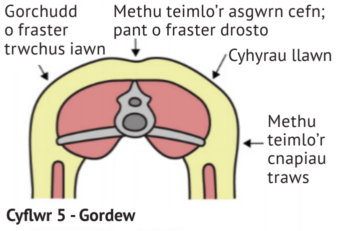
Mae rhoi Sgôr Cyflwr Corff (SCC) yn ffordd syml, effeithiol a rhad o asesu adnoddau corfforol wrth gefn y defaid llawn-dwf. Mae SCC yn archwiliad syml â llaw i asesu faint o fraster a chyhyr sydd gan anifail fel bod modd rhoi sgôr rhwng 1 (tenau) a 5 (gordew) ac unrhyw gynnydd o 0.5.

Pwysigrwydd SCC

Mae'n cymryd 8 wythnos i famogiaid ennill un sgôr SCC o borfa oherwydd mae'n cyfateb i oddeutu 12% o bwysau'r corff. Dyna pam mae'n bwysig sgori cylfwr corff mamogiaid ar adegau allweddol o'r flwyddyn yn cyrraedd y targed o ran SCC. Dylid rhoi SCC i famogiaid o leiaf 12 wythnos cyn eu troi at yr hwrdd a chyn ŵyna. Gall cynyddu SCC mamog o 2 i 3.5 ei gwneud yn 20% yn fwy ffrwythlon a gall hefyd olygu ŵyn iach a chyflenwad da o laeth gan y famog. Os yw mamogiaid heb fawr o fraster, mae'n werth ymchwilio i weld beth yw'r achos oherwydd gallai fod yn ganlyniad i broblem iechyd fel clefyd heintus neu gloffni.

Sut i Sgori Cyflwr Corff

Wrth Sgôrio Cyflwr Corff (SCC), teimlwch ar hyd yr asgwrn cefn ac aseswch faint o fraster sydd rhwng cyhyrau'r lwynau

1	• Tenau iawn • Asennau i'w gweld yn rhwydd • Fertebrâu i'w gweld yn rhwydd • Y gynffon yn teimlo'n esgyrnog	Nid oes unrhyw orchudd o fraster ac felly mae'r cnapiau i'w teimlo'n rhwydd ac maent yn finiog. Mae'n rhwydd gwthio'r bysedd o dan y cnapiau llorweddol ac mae modd teimlo pob un. Mae cyhyrau'r lwynau'n fas.	 **Cyflwr 1 – Esgyrnog**
2	• Tenau • Asennau ychydig yn weladwy • Fertebrâu yn amlwg • Asgwrn y gynffon yn hawdd ei deimlo	Am nad oes fawr o orchudd braster, mae'r fertebrâu yn amlwg ond llyfn, ac ni ellir teimlo'r rhai unigol ond fel gwrymiau. Mae'r cnapiau llorweddol yn llyfn a chrwn, ond mae'n dal yn bosibl i wasgu'r bysedd oddi tanynt. Mae cyhyrau'r lwynau o ddyfnder cymedrol.	 **Cyflwr 2 – Tenau**
3	• Cyflwr da • Methu gweld yr asennaufel arfer • Fertebrâu yn llyfn a chrwn • Braidd yn gallu teimlo asgwrn y gynffon	Mae yna orchudd cymedrol o fraster, ac felly mae'r fertebrâu yn llyfn a chrwn; rhaid gwasgu i deimlo'r asgwrn. Mae'r asennau hefyd yn llyfn ac wedi eu gorchuddio'n dda; rhaid gwasgu'n galed â'r bysedd i gael hyd i'w pennau. Mae cyhyrau'r lwynau'n llawn.	 **Cyflwr 3 – Canolig**
4	• Tew • Asennau wedi eu gorchuddio'n dda • Fertebrâu yn ymddangos fel llinell • Y gynffon yn solet a chrwn	Mae yna orchudd trwchus o fraster, ac o'r herwydd ymddengys y fertebrâu fel llinell; does dim modd teimlo'r asennau ac mae cyhyrau'r lwynau yn llawn.	 **Cyflwr 4 - Tew**
5	• Gordew • Asennau wedi eu gorchuddio'n dda • Methu teimlo'r fertebrâu • Y gynffon yn dew a llydan	Am fod haenen o fraster trwchus iawn, does dim modd canfod y fertebrâu, hyd yn oed wrth wasgu; mae pant yn yr haenau o fraster lle dylai'r cnapiau fod. Does dim modd canfod yr asennau ac mae cyhyrau'r lwynau yn llawn iawn.	 **Cyflwr 5 - Gordew**

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