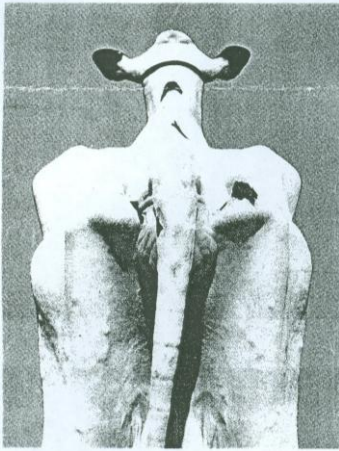


# No Matter How You Look At It

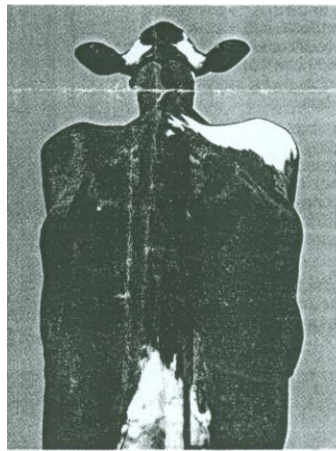
## Body Condition Scoring

Is An Important Part of Modern Dairy Management.



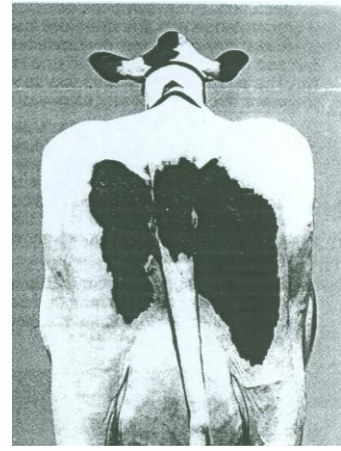
**BCS=1**

Deep cavity around tailhead. Bones of pelvis and short ribs sharp and easily felt. No fatty tissue in pelvic or loin area. Deep depression in loin.



**BCS=2**

Shallow cavity around tailhead with some fatty tissue lining it and covering pin bones. Pelvis easily felt. Ends of short ribs feel rounded and upper surfaces can be felt with slight pressure. Depression visible in loin area.



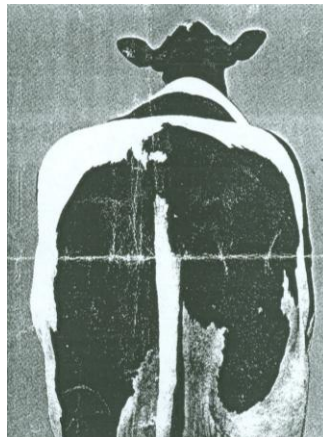
**BCS=3**

No cavity around tailhead and fatty tissue easily felt over whole area. Pelvis can be felt with slight pressure. Thick layer-of tissue covering top of short ribs which can still-be felt with pressure. Slight depression in loin area.



**BCS=4**

Folds of fatty tissue are seen around tailhead with patches of fat covering pin bones. Pelvis can be felt with firm pressure. Short ribs can no longer be felt. No depression in loin area.



**BCS=5**

Tailhead is buried in thick layer of fatty tissue. Pelvic bones cannot be felt even with firm pressure. Short ribs covered with thick layer of fatty tissue.

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# No Matter How You Look At It

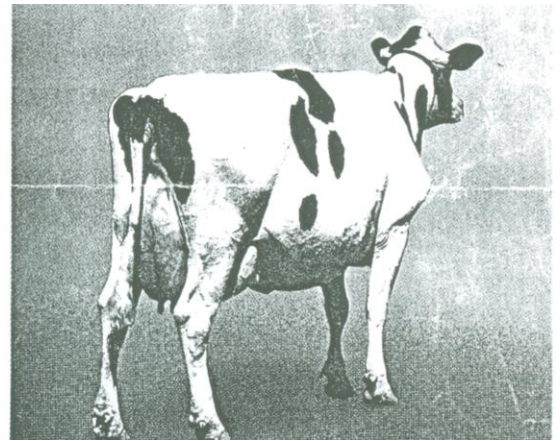
## Body Condition Scoring

Is An Important Part of Modern Dairy Management.

In the dairy cow, body condition is an indicator of the amount of stored energy reserves and changes with different stages of lactation. Fresh cows in peak lactation tend to be in a negative energy balance and therefore lose body condition. Late lactation cows, dry cows and low producers are in a positive energy balance and gain condition. There is no one ideal body condition score. There is a range of desirable scores which change for individual cows over the different stages of each lactation.

Dairy farmers should regularly evaluate the body condition of their cows and heifers so they can fine-tune feeding and management practices. Adequate body reserves are necessary to maintain health, production and reproductive efficiency. Under-conditioned cows are prone to reduced milk production and poor persistency of lactation. Overly conditioned cows are predisposed to calving difficulties, fatty liver syndrome, impaired reproduction and metabolic disorders.

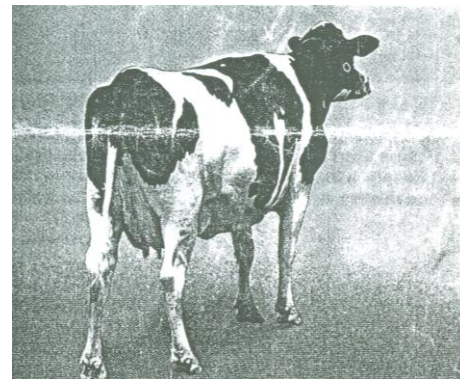
Body condition scoring of cattle is an essential management tool for the progressive dairy farmer. It can be mastered with a little training and good observation skills, using both sight and touch to evaluate each cow.



**BCS = 3**



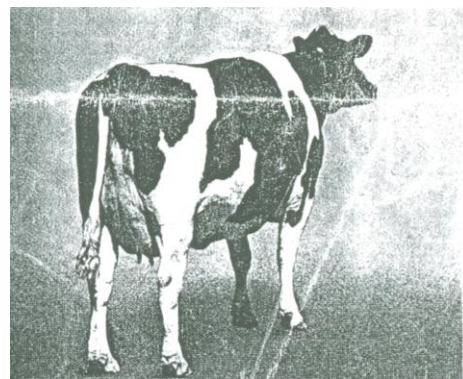
**BCS = 1**



**BCS = 4**



**BCS = 2**



**BCS = 5**