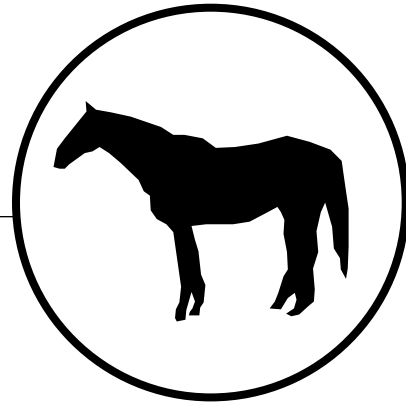


What's the Score: Horse

BODY CONDITION SCORING (BCS) GUIDE



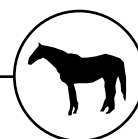
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- Page 2:** BCS scoring guide for Elk.
- Page 3:** BCS worksheet.
- Page 4:** Labelled illustration of a Horse.
- Page 5:** Cross section of the loin area.
- Page 6:** Overview of all the body condition scores for a Horse. Each body condition score will have an illustration to match and describe what you should be looking for in determining the body condition score of your animals.

BODY CONDITION SCORING GUIDE FOR HORSE

This table can be used to score horse in the field.

BCS	WHOLE BODY	WITHERS	SHOULDER	LOIN	RIBS	TAILHEAD
1 ^{poor}	Poor condition, extremely emaciated, no fat tissue felt.	Bone structure easily visible.	Bone structure easily noticeable.	Spinous processes project prominently.	Project prominently.	Tail head, pin and hook bones project prominently.
2 ^{very thin}	Very thin, emaciated.	Bone structure faintly noticeable.	Faintly discernible.	Spinous processes prominent. Slight fat covering over base of spinous processes. Transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded.	Prominent.	Prominent.
3 ^{thin}	Thin.	Accentuated.	Accentuated.	Fat build-up halfway on spinous processes, but easily discernible. Can't feel transverse processes.	Slight fat cover. Individual ribs discernible.	Prominent but individual vertebrae can't be visually identified. Hook bones rounded, but easily discernible. Pin bones not distinguishable
4 ^{moderately thin}	Moderately thin.	Not obviously thin.	Not obviously thin.	Negative crease along back.	Faint outline discernible.	Prominence depends on conformation. Fat palpable. Hook bones not discernible
5 ^{moderate}	Moderate condition.	Rounded over spinous processes.	Blends smoothly into body.	Back is level.	Individual ribs can be felt, but not visually distinguished.	Fat around tail head beginning to feel spongy.
6 ^{moderately fleshy}	Moderately fleshy.	Fat beginning to be deposited.	Fat beginning to be deposited. Point-of-shoulder not discernible.	May have slight positive crease down back.	Fat over ribs feels spongy.	Fat around tail head feels soft.
7 ^{fleshy}	Fleshy.	Fat deposited along withers.	Fat deposited behind shoulder.	May have positive crease down back, behind shoulder.	Individual ribs can be felt. Noticeable fat filling between ribs.	Fat around tail head is soft.
8 ^{fat}	Fat. Fat deposited along inner buttocks.	Area along withers filled with fat.	Area behind shoulder filled in, flush with body.	Positive crease down back.	Difficult to feel individual ribs.	Tail head fat very soft.
9 ^{extremely fat}	Extremely fat. Fat along inner buttocks may rub together. Flank filled in flush.	Bulging fat.	Bulging fat.	Obvious positive crease down back.	Patchy fat appearing over ribs.	Building fat around tail head.



BODY CONDITION SCORING WORKSHEET FOR HORSE

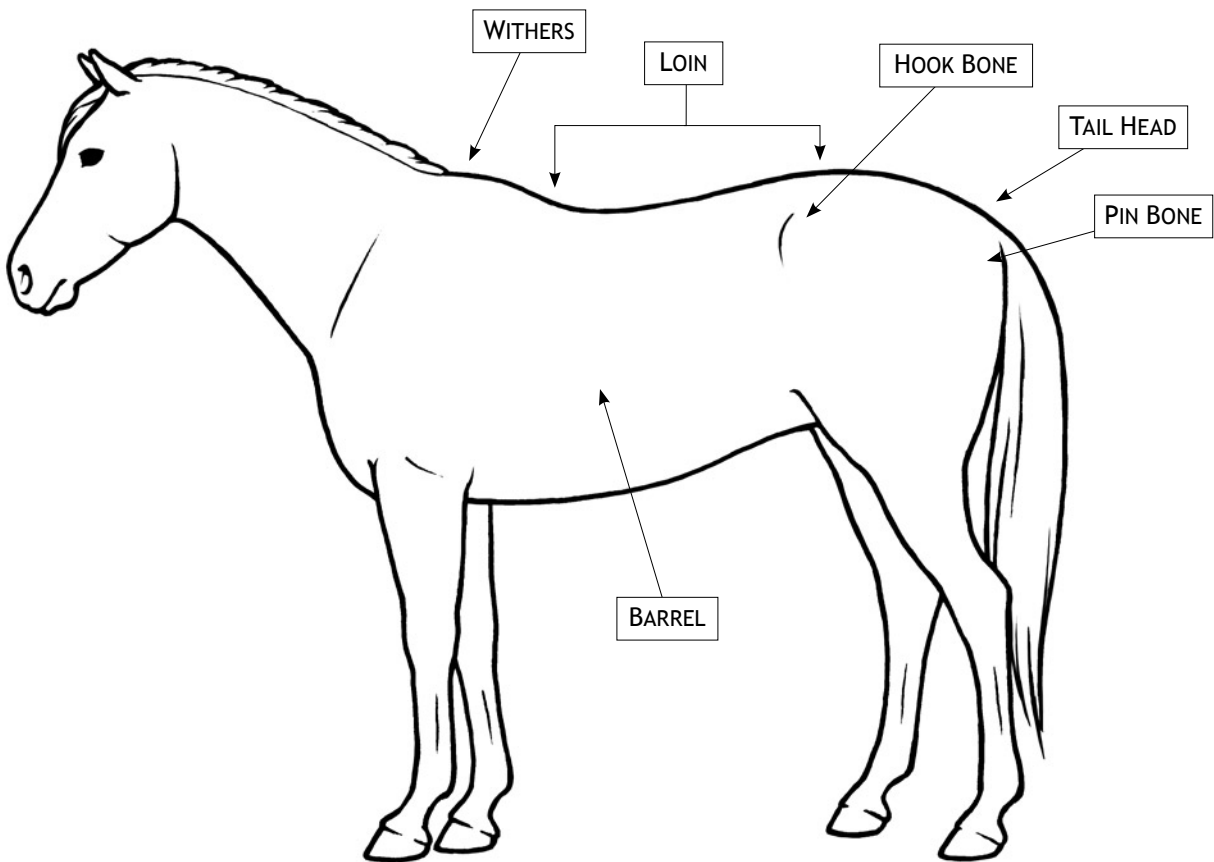
DATE: _____

HORSE	BCS



LABELLED ILLUSTRATION OF A HORSE

Illustration of a Horse with a BCS score of 5.



BODY CONDITION SCORES FOR HORSES

Overview of all the body condition scores for Horses

BCS 1

WHOLE BODY:

- Poor condition
- Extremely emaciated
- No fat tissue felt

NECK:

- Bone structure visible

WITHERS:

- Bone structure easily visible

LOIN:

- Spinous processes project prominently

TAIL HEAD:

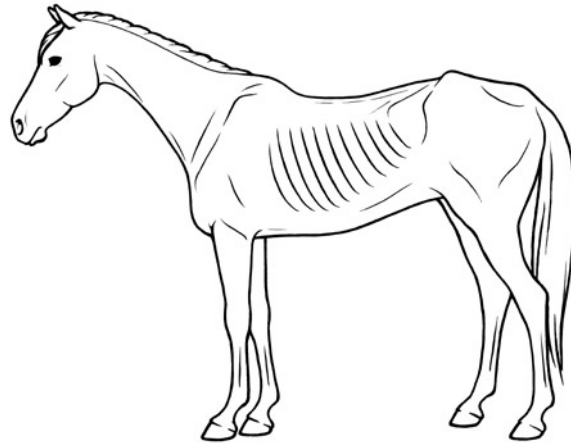
- Tail head, pin and hook bones project prominently

RIBS:

- Project prominently

SHOULDER:

- Bone structure easily noticeable



BCS 2

WHOLE BODY:

- Very thin
- Emaciated

NECK:

- Bones faintly discernible

WITHERS:

- Bone structure faintly noticeable

LOIN:

- Spinous processes prominent
- Slight fat covering over base of spinous processes
- Transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded

TAIL HEAD:

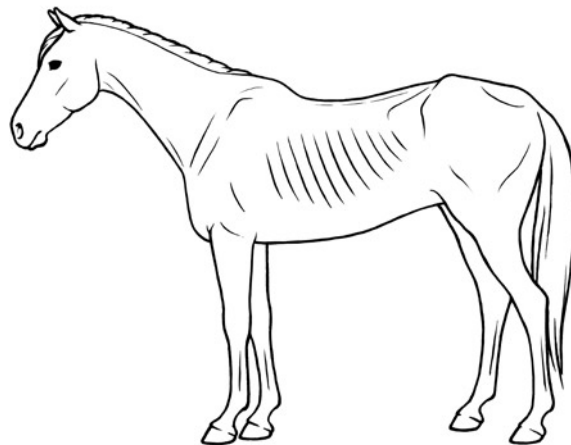
- Prominent

RIBS

- Prominent

SHOULDER

- Faintly discernible



BCS 3

WHOLE BODY

- Thin

NECK

- Accentuated

WITHERS

- Accentuated

LOIN

- Fat build-up halfway on spinous processes, but easily discernible
- Can't feel transverse processes

TAIL HEAD

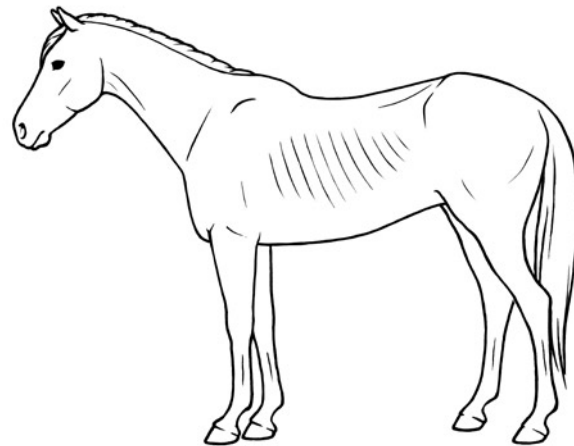
- Prominent but individual vertebrae can't be visually identified
- Hook bones rounded, but easily discernible
- Pin bones not distinguishable

RIBS

- Slight fat cover
- Individual ribs discernible

SHOULDER

- Accentuated



BCS 4

WHOLE BODY

- Moderately thin

NECK

- Not obviously thin

WITHERS

- Not obviously thin

LOIN

- Negative crease along back

TAIL HEAD

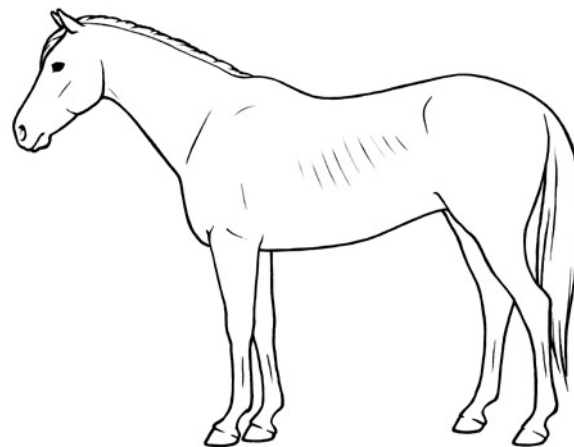
- Prominence depends on conformation
- Fat palpable
- Hook bones not discernible

RIBS

- Faint outline discernible

SHOULDER

- Not obviously thin



BCS 5

WHOLE BODY

- Moderate condition

NECK

- Blends smoothly into body

WITHERS

- Rounded over spinous processes

LOIN

- Back is level

TAIL HEAD

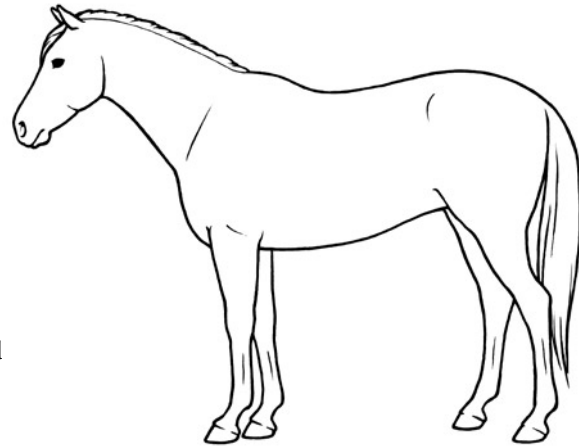
- Fat around tail head beginning to feel spongy

RIBS

- Individual ribs can be felt, but not visually distinguished

SHOULDER

- Blends smoothly into body



BCS 6

WHOLE BODY

- Moderately fleshy

NECK

- Fat beginning to be deposited

WITHERS

- Fat beginning to be deposited

LOIN

- May have slight positive crease down back

TAIL HEAD

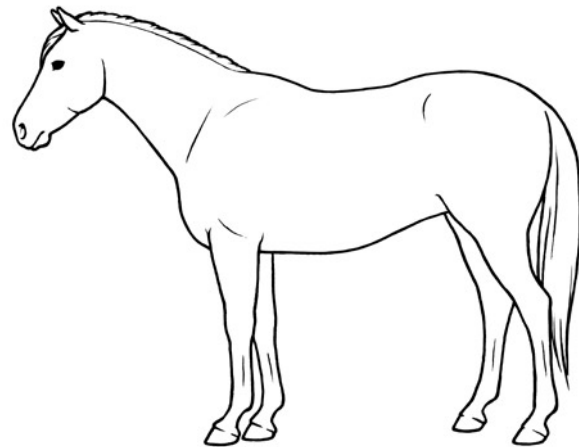
- Fat around tail head feels soft

RIBS

- Fat over ribs feels spongy

SHOULDER

- Fat beginning to be deposited
- Point-of-shoulder not discernible



BCS 7

WHOLE BODY

- Fleshy

NECK

- Fat deposited along neck

WITHERS

- Fat deposited along withers

LOIN

- May have positive crease down back, behind shoulder

TAIL HEAD

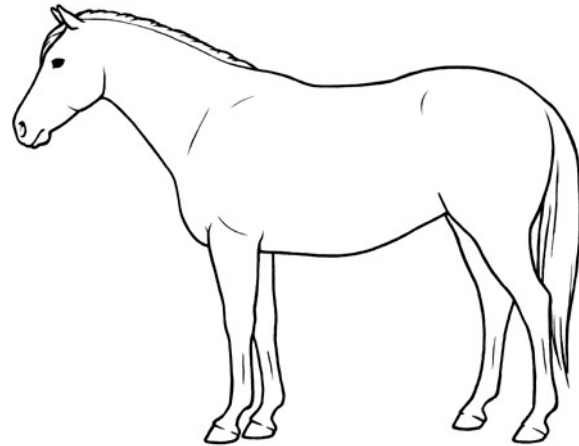
- Fat around tail head is soft

RIBS

- Individual ribs can be felt
- Noticeable fat filling between ribs

SHOULDER

- Fat deposited behind shoulder



BCS 8

WHOLE BODY

- Fat
- Fat deposited along inner buttocks

NECK

- Noticeable thickening of neck

WITHERS

- Area along withers filled with fat

LOIN

- Positive crease down back

TAIL HEAD

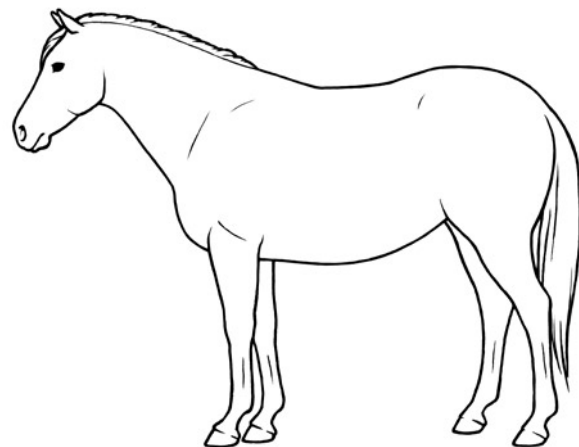
- Tail head fat very soft

RIBS

- Difficult to feel individual ribs

SHOULDER

- Area behind shoulder filled in, flush with body



BCS 9

WHOLE BODY

- Extremely fat
- Fat along inner buttocks may rub together
- Flank filled in flush

NECK

- Bulging fat

WITHERS

- Bulging fat

LOIN

- Obvious positive crease down back

TAIL HEAD

- Building fat around tail head

RIBS

- Patchy fat appearing over ribs

SHOULDER

- Bulging fat

