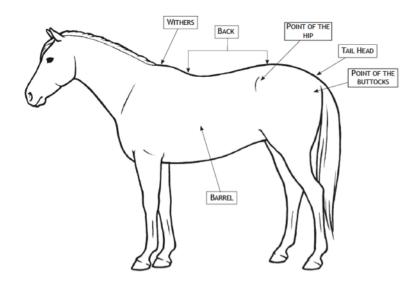


# Body Condition Scoring - Horses and Ponies

#### LABELLED ILLUSTRATION OF A HORSE<sup>1</sup>



# BCS<sub>1</sub>

# WHOLE BODY

- · Poor condition
- Extremely emaciated
- No fat tissue felt

#### **NECK**

Bone structure visible

# WITHERS

• Bone structure easily visible

#### **BACK**

• Spinous processes project prominently

# TAIL HEAD

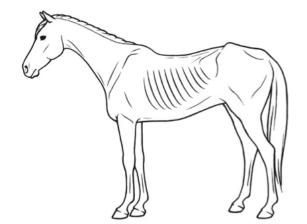
 Tail head, point of the buttocks and point of the hip project prominently

#### **RIBS**

• Project prominently

#### **SHOULDER**

• Bone structure easily noticeable



Adapted from: What's the Score? Body Condition Scoring for Livestock CD-ROM CD 400/40-1 with permission of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. www.agriculture.alberta.ca Copies of the CD can be ordered on-line at: www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex9622



# BCS 2

#### WHOLE BODY

- Very thin
- Emaciated

#### **NECK**

• Bone faintly discernible

#### **WITHERS**

• Bone structure faintly noticeable

# **BACK**

- 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

# BACK

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

#### TAIL HEAD

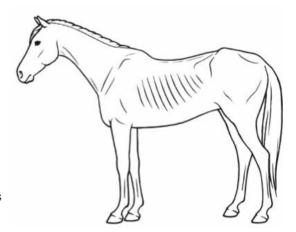
- Prominent but individual vertebrae can't be visually identified
- Point of the hip rounded, but easily discernible
- Point of the buttocks not distinguishable

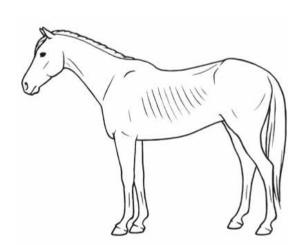
#### **RIBS**

- Slight fat cover
- Individual ribs discernible

#### **SHOULDER**

Accentuated







# BCS 4

# WHOLE BODY

• Moderately thin

# **NECK**

• Not obviously thin

#### **WITHERS**

• Not obviously thin

#### **BACK**

• Negative crease along back

# TAIL HEAD

- Prominence depends on conformation
- Fat palpable
- Point of the hip 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

# **BACK**

• Back is level

#### TAIL HEAD

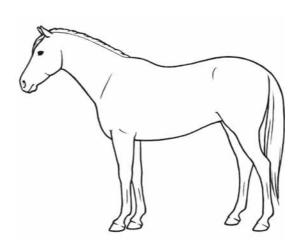
Fat around tail head beginning to feel spongy

# 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

# **BACK**

May have slight positive crease down back

# TAIL HEAD

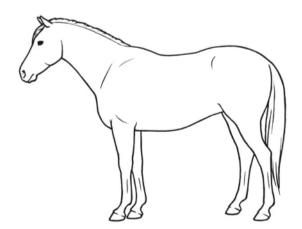
• Fat around tail head feels soft

# **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

#### **BACK**

May have positive crease down back, behind shoulder

#### TAIL HEAD

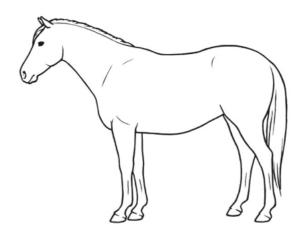
• Fat around tail head is soft

# **RIBS**

- Individual ribs can be felt
- Noticeable fat fillings 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

# **BACK**

Positive crease down back

#### TAIL HEAD

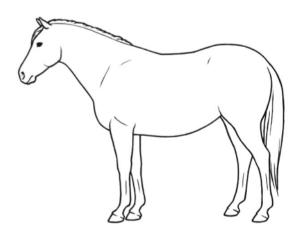
• Tail head fat very soft

# **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

#### **BACK**

• Obvious positive crease down back

# TAIL HEAD

• Building fat around tail head

#### **RIBS**

• Patchy fat appearing over ribs

# SHOULDER

Bulging fat

