



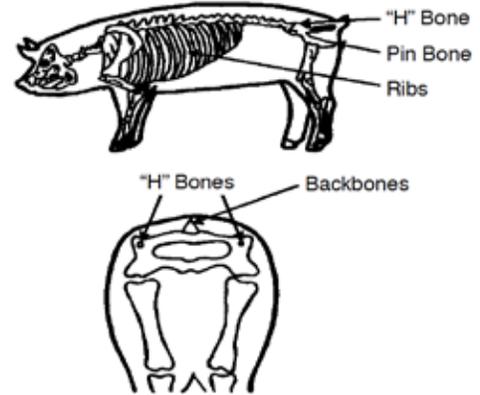
Sow Body Condition Scoring System

This scoring system (14) uses finger or hand pressure at key points on the sow's body to arrive at a number, or score.

The points used on the sow's body are those areas where the only tissue between the skin and bones is fat tissue. These areas on the sow include the ribs, back bone, "H" bones, and "pin" bones (Figure 1). By assessing the ease or difficulty of feeling these bones, you can estimate the fat stores of the sow. It is important to rely on more than one of these areas when assessing body condition. Different animals may deposit fat in differing degrees at different locations.

Relationship between condition score and back-fat level (14)

Figure 1. Location of ribs, backbone, "H" bones, and "pin" bones on the sow.



Condition Score	Approximate Level of Backfat	
	Inches (in)	Millimeters (mm)
1	< 0.6	< 15
2	0.6-0.7	15-18
3	0.7-0.8	18-20
4	0.8-0.9	20-23
5	> 0.9	> 23



Sow Body Condition Scoring System (continued)



Condition score 1:

The sow is visually thin, with hips and backbone very prominent and no fat cover over hips and backbone.



Condition score 2:

The hip bones and backbone are easily felt without any pressure on the palms.



Condition score 3:

It takes firm pressure with the palm to feel the hip bones and backbone.



Condition score 4:

It is impossible to feel the bones at all even with pressure on the palm of the hands.



Condition score 5:

The sow is carrying so much fat that it is impossible to feel the hip bones and backbone even by pushing down with a single finger.

Score	Appearance	Pelvic Bones	Loin	Ribs
1	Emaciated	Very prominent. Deep cavity around tail head	Vertebrae are prominent and sharp. Very narrow loin. Hollow flank.	Individual ribs are very prominent.
2	Thin	Obvious with slight cover.	Narrow loin. Flank rather hollow. Slight cover on spine, but prominent vertebrae.	Rib cage less apparent but individual ribs easily detected with slight pressure.
3	Ideal	Covered but felt with pressure.	Spine covered and rounded.	Ribs are covered but can be felt with pressure.
4	Fat	Only felt with firm pressure. No cavity around tail.	Difficult to feel vertebrae. Flank filled.	Rib cage not visible and difficult to feel.
5	Obese	Impossible to feel and huge fat deposits (hanging skin and fat).	Thick fat cover, impossible to feel bones. Flank full and rounded.	Thick fat cover, not possible to feel ribs.