

Appendix FW.1

SOW CONDITION SCORES

Ideally score sows by touch, using the palm of the hand, as well as visually. Visual and manual checks of body condition are not purely an assessment of backfat. In modern, lean, genotypes body condition score is an indication of the animal's overall muscularity and is a poor indicator of fatness.

Score Number	Condition	Description	Shape of Body
5	Overfat	Hips and backbone heavily covered	Bulbous
4	Fat	Shoulders, ribs, hips and backbone cannot be felt even when pressure is applied	Tending to bulge
3.5	Good Condition	Shoulders, hips, ribs and backbone barely felt with pressure	Tube shaped
3	Normal	Shoulders, ribs, hips and backbone can be felt with firm pressure	Tube shaped but flat (slab sides)
2.5	Somewhat Thin	Shoulders, ribs, hips and backbone quite easily felt with pressure	Shoulders, ribs, hips and backbone noticeable
2	Thin	Shoulders, ribs, hips and backbone and easily felt with pressure	Shoulders, ribs, hips and backbone noticeable
1	Very Thin	Bone structure easily felt	Shoulders, individual ribs, hips and backbone visually apparent

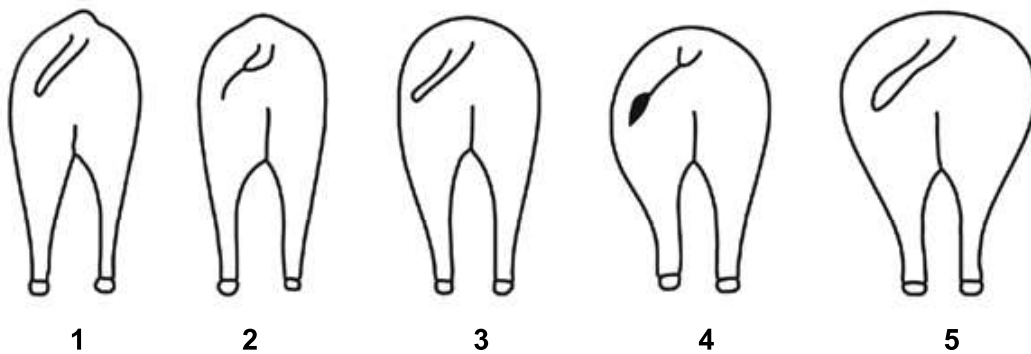


Diagram courtesy of 'Managing Pig Health and the Treatment of Disease' M Muirhead