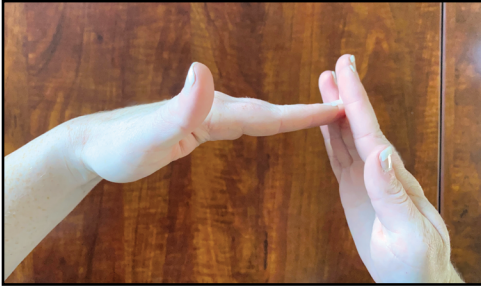




Sheep Body Condition Score Barn Reference

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Estimating Body Condition Score using your hand as a reference.



BCS 1 feels like the top of your fingertips. The spine will feel sharp, and each vertebra is very pronounced.



BCS 2 feels like the top of your knuckles when your hand is closed in a fist. Each vertebra can still be felt, but there is more fat and muscle present.



BCS 3 feels like the top of the knuckles when your hand is with a slight curve in your fingers. Vertebrae are felt, but fat and muscle begin to fill in on each side of the spine.



BCS 4 feels like the flat, back of your hand. The spine is not as prominent as the loin muscle and fat fills in.



BCS 5 feels like the meaty, bottom part of your palm. Sheep that have a BCS 5 have fat deposits peaking above the spine leaving a dip over the spine.

Description and visual indicators of body condition scores 1 through 5.

BCS 1 (Emaciated):

Spine and hip bones protrude. No fat cover and loin eye muscle does not feel full. It is easy to press fingers under transverse process.



BCS 2 (Thin): Spine and hip bones do not protrude. No fat cover is evident. Loin muscle feels full. Fingers can be pressed under transverse process.



BCS 3 (Average): Round and smooth over spine and hips. Some fat cover is evident. Loin muscle feels full. Hard pressure to feel the transverse process.



BCS 4 (Fat): Skeletal features felt with pressure. Fat cover is present from brisket to tailhead. Loin muscle has firm fat cover. Transverse process is not felt.



BCS 5 (Obese): Spine cannot be felt. Excessive fat deposits in brisket, loin and tailhead. Loin muscle has firm, thick fat cover. Transverse process is not felt.



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