

Sheep Body Condition Timing and BCS Targets

Timing: Weaning, pre-tup, pregnancy scanning and pre-lamb

Management weaning to pre-mating

- Target as many as possible at BCS 3 and none below 2.5 at mating
- Split flock post weaning and 'hold' the good condition ewes (BCS >3) and feed the poorer ewes (BCS <3) better
- Set up regular times to BCS ewes from weaning to mating
- Ewes below BCS 3 – reduce mob pressure, front of rotation preferentially feed, consider drenching these ewes

Management scanning to lambing

- Target a BCS of 3 at lambing to maximize lamb survival and lamb weaning weights
- Ewes going into the scanning crate that are below BCS 3 need to be marked and drafted off, especially multiples
- Ewes below BCS 3 – reduce mob pressure, front of rotation preferentially feed, consider drenching these ewes

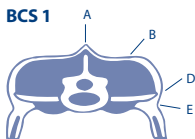
Generally, to increase condition score by one unit (i.e. 2.0 to 3.0), ewes need to gain 7-9 kg live weight.

How to Body Condition Score Sheep

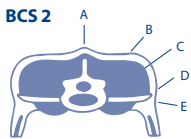
Locate the last rib (the 13th) using the balls of the fingers and thumb, try to feel the backbone with the thumb and the end of the short ribs with the finger tips immediately behind the last rib.

BSC	A SPINE	B FAT COVER	C MUSCLE	D HORIZONTAL PROCESS	E FINGERS PASS UNDER
1	Prominent & Sharp	Nil	–	Sharp	Easily
2	Prominent & Smooth	Nil	Medium	Rounded	With slight pressure
3	Smooth & Rounded	Moderate	Full	Smooth & Rounded	With hard pressure
4	Detected as a line	Thick	Full	Not detectable	–
5	Not detected	Thick	Very Full	Not detectable	–

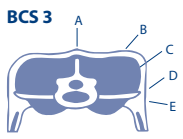
BCS 1



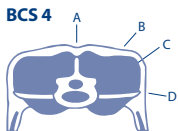
BCS 2



BCS 3



BCS 4



BCS 5

