

Meat Institute Cow Body Condition Scoring Guide

Beef Cow Body Condition Scoring

Severe Emaciation = Body Condition Score 1

BCS 1: This cow is severely emaciated and physically weak with all ribs and bone structure easily visible. Little muscle tissue or fat present. Cattle in this score are extremely rare and the extremely thin attributes of these animals may sometimes compromise their mobility, cause severe weakness, and lead to debilitation.



BCS 1 courtesy of: <https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/body-condition-scoring-of-cows.html>

BCS 2: The cow appears very thin. There is a small amount of muscle tissue, but it seems severely depleted through the hindquarters and shoulder. Fat is present, but not abundant. Space between spinous process is easily seen.



BCS 2 courtesy of:
<https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B1308&title=body-condition-scoring-beef-cows>

Dairy Cow Body Condition Scoring

Severe Emaciation = Body Condition Score 1

BCS 1: This cow is severely emaciated and physically weak with all ribs and bone structure easily visible. Little muscle tissue or fat present. Cattle in this score are extremely rare and the extremely thin attributes of these animals may sometimes compromise their mobility, cause severe weakness, and lead to debilitation.



BCS 1 courtesy of: Food Safety Net Services

BCS 2: The cow appears very thin. There is a small amount of muscle tissue, but it seems severely depleted through the hindquarters and shoulder. Fat is present, but not abundant. Space between spinous process is easily seen.



BCS 2 courtesy of: Food Safety Net Services