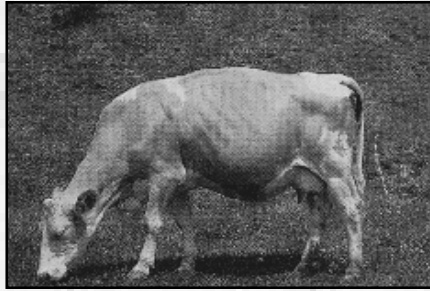


Too Thin - Feed'em to Breed'em



2 *Very Thin* - bones visible, no fat; considerable muscle loss.



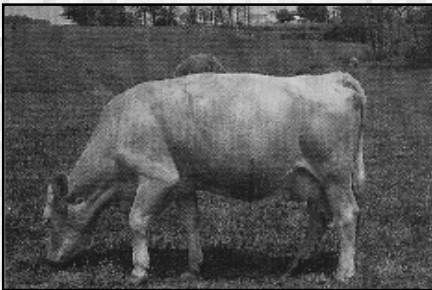
3 *Thin* - Foreribs visible; some muscle loss.



4 *Borderline* - Forerib not visible; 12th and 13th ribs visible.

(Note: B.C.S. 1 not shown; too weak to stand for photo)

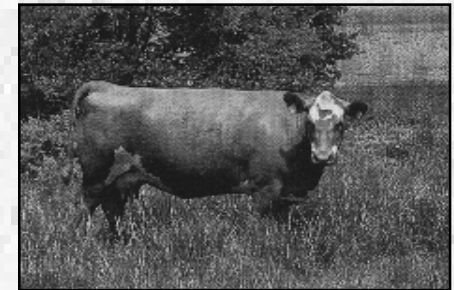
Good Shape - Proceed With Breeding Program



5 *Moderate* - All bones covered; neither thin nor fat.

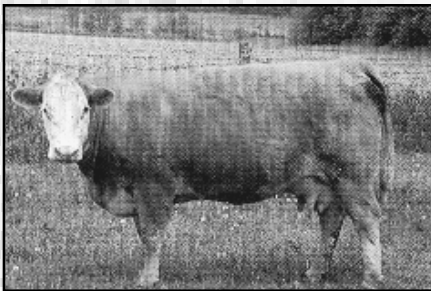


6 *Good* - Smooth appearance; some fat on back and tail.



7 *Very Good* - Smooth appearance with fat over back and tail head.

Caution - Potential Fertility and/or Calving Problems



8 *Fat* - Blocky appearance, bone over back not visible.



9 *Very Fat* - Tail buried in fat.

Where Does Your Herd Fit?

Adequate body condition is essential if high levels of cyclicity and fertility are to be maintained in your herd. Don't waste time or money on a synchronization program if your cows aren't ready (B.C.S. > 5). Body condition score your cows several times a year to monitor the effectiveness of your nutrition program.

Target cows to calve in a B.C.S. of 5.5 to 6.5. Feed to minimize B.C.S. loss in the post partum period and to regain a B.C.S. > 5 by the start of the breeding season.

Special Thanks to David Mangione Associate Professor and Ohio State University Extension for provision of the photos used in this scoring guide.

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