Assessing your horse’s body condition

Body condition scoring is an easy method you can use to determine your horse’s current condition and monitor changes over time.

Where your horse stores fat is an indicator of body condition.

Keep in mind, your horse’s body condition level can depend on a number of factors such as age, temperament, metabolism, level of work, breed, and current or past injuries or illness.

Body Condition Score

1. POOR
Extremely emaciated. No fat cover is visible or can be felt anywhere.

2. VERY THIN
Emaciated. Bone structure easily discernible. Slight tissue cover is visible and can be felt.

3. THIN
Slight amount of fat is visible and can be felt.

4. MODERATELY THIN
Not obviously thin, but still angular. Muscle definition beginning to show.

5. MODERATE
Horse has a blended, smooth overall appearance. Muscle definition and contours easily discernible.

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**Body Condition Score**

**6. MODERATELY FLESHY**

Some fat deposits are visible and can be felt. Muscle definition and contours still discernible.

**Body Condition Score**

**7. FLESHY**

Upper end of ideal body condition. Fat deposits are obvious and easily felt. Muscle definition and contours begin to disappear.

**Body Condition Score**

**8. OBSESE**

Unhealthy amount of fat is visible and can be felt. Muscle definition and contours are much less visible.

**Body Condition Score**

**9. OBVIOUSLY OBSESE**

The horse loses all definition of muscle and contours.

**Products for the hard keeper** (body condition score of 1-5)

- **Equi-Jewel®**
  All-natural, high-fat stabilized rice bran when extra calories are needed.

- **Elevate®**
  Highly bioavailable natural vitamin E, essential antioxidant support for maintenance of healthy immune, muscular and nervous systems.

- **Neigh-Lox® Advanced**
  Reduces the risk of gastric and colonic ulcers, digestive upset, and hindgut imbalances. When lack of appetite is a problem it can often be linked back to indigestion or discomfort.

**Products for the easy keeper** (body condition score of 6-9)

- **Elevate®**
  Natural vitamin E is essential for horses and ponies that can't consume large amounts of fresh green grass.

- **Micro-Phase®**
  Scientifically formulated vitamin and mineral supplement for easy-keeping horses that consume an all-forage diet or those that eat fortified concentrates at less than recommended levels.

- **Neigh-Lox® Advanced**
  Multi-pronged approach that supports complete GI tract health. A healthy digestive tract is essential for full utilization of the restricted amounts of forages and supplements found in the easy keeper's diet.