



Equine and Equations

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Body Condition Scores

BCS, or Body Condition Score, is based on the amount of fat on a horse's body. It is a good indicator of if a horse is too thin, too fat, or just right.

Imagine the three little bears in the story of Goldie Locks where one was too hot, one was too cold, and one was just right. Conditioning Scores go from 1 (poor) to 9 (extremely fat). Just like a human can calculate their BMI, we can use our math skills to determine a horse's BCS by number.

Today we will determine Body Condition Scores!

Although BCS is rated on a scale from 1-9, today we will score our horses as a 1, 5, or a 9.

1 being poor (extremely thin), 5 being moderate (average), and 9 being very fat.

Study the following images to determine each horse's BCS

Horse #1 _____



Horse #2 _____



Horse #3 _____



Scoring Activity

Now that you are familiar with the different body scores, let's practice!

Let's try to calculate body condition score using a calculator.

To calculate the body condition score of a horse, we must assign a score to each of the 6 areas on our animal.

The areas are: neck, withers, shoulder, ribs, loin, and tailhead.

Each of these areas may receive a score from 1-9.

However, today we will ONLY be assigning the scores we have learned, 1, 5, and 9.

Once you assign a score to each area of the horse, you can use a calculator to add them all up!

Use the formula below to help you keep track of your scores. **Neck**

+ Withers + Shoulder + Ribs + Loin + Tailhead = Total Take

the total number and divide by 6 to get the BCS!

