

Sow Body Condition Scoring Guidelines

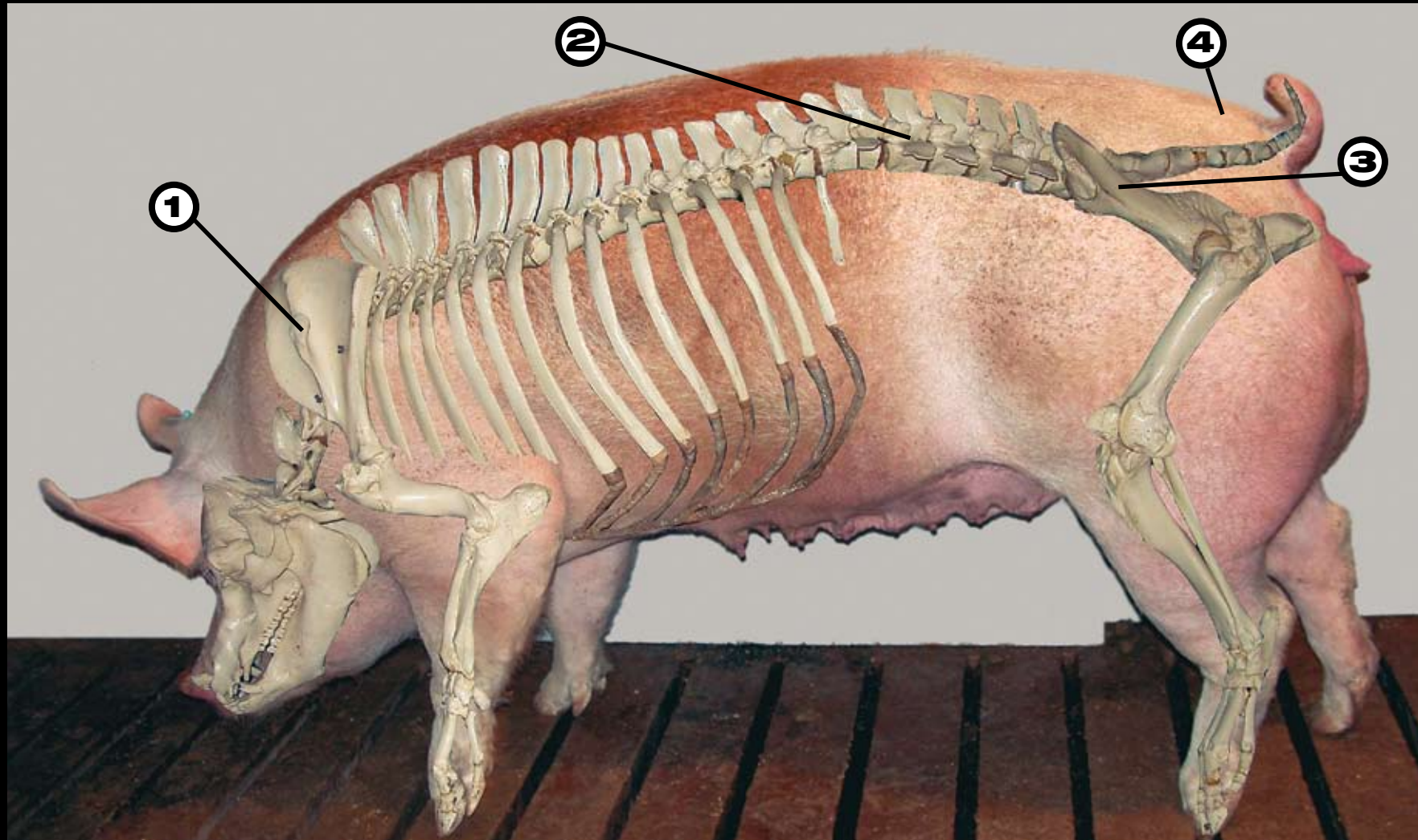
To effectively assign subjective (visual) body condition scores, sows should be analyzed and scored early in gestation. It is critical to understand the points of evaluation on the animal and to be able to distinguish between fat and muscle. Begin by locating the ribs, the backbone and the hips.

An inexpensive, low-labor means of estimating sow weight was developed by Kansas State University using a cloth tape measure (see photo and caption).

Ultrasound equipment should be used to obtain backfat estimates at the sow's last rib. See photo and caption explaining procedures for obtaining backfat measurements.

The rear view pictures show a high view and a low view of a sow as her body condition score (BCS) progressed from BCS 1 to BCS 5. Sows can be in any of these conditions in any parity and stage of production. A body condition score of "3" is considered "ideal."

These photos present a visual reference to help train your eyes to see visual differences in sow condition. Captions between photos provide descriptions, explanations and backfat estimate ranges for each body condition score. These backfat estimates were obtained by A-mode ultrasound; "real-time" values may be slightly higher for fat sows. The backfat recommendations for each BCS classification can differ slightly, depending on the genetic lines. The weight and backfat estimates, combined, are used to estimate daily feeding requirements. Be sure to consult your genetic supplier for specific weight, backfat and nutritional recommendations.



Sow Skeleton

Points of the skeleton that can be palpated or visually identified when sows are scored for body condition.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| ① shoulder blades | ④ tail head |
| ② spine | ⑤ top shape |
| ③ hip bones | ⑥ between legs (seam of hams) |

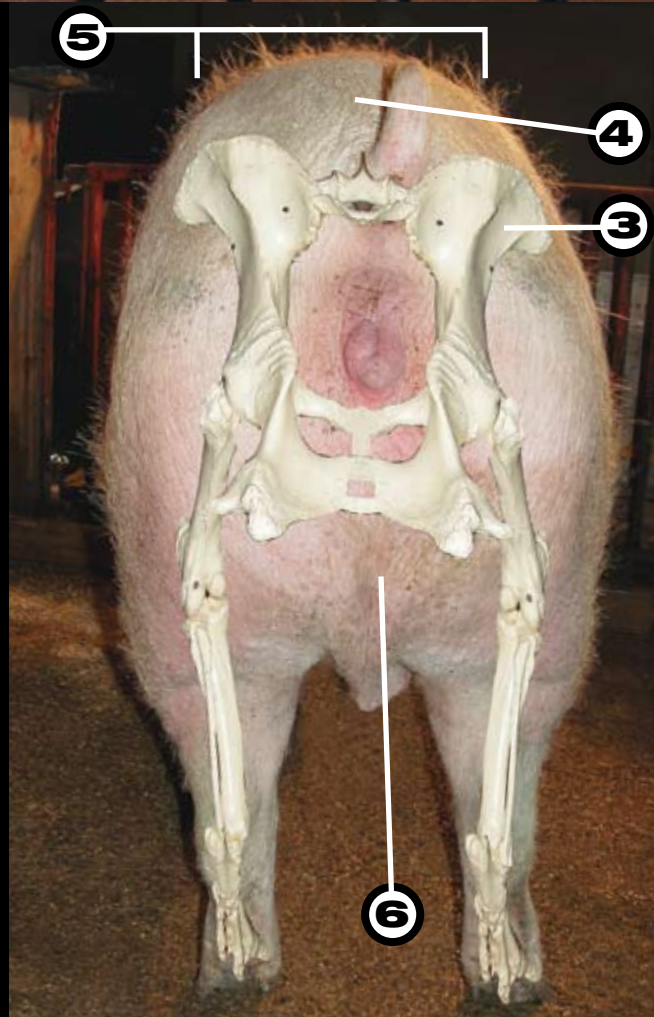
* Measure backfat at the last rib, 2.5 inches off the midline of the sow's spine.

El Esqueleto

Partes del esqueleto que se palpan u observan para evaluar la condición de la cerda.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| ① Las escápulas | ④ Cabeza de la cola |
| ② La espina | ⑤ La forma del lomo |
| ③ Las caderas | ⑥ Entre las patas traseras |

* Mida la grasa dorsal a la última costilla, a 2.5 pulgadas de la espina de la cerda.



Flank-to-Flank Weight Estimate

Flank-to-flank measurements using a cloth tape can be used to estimate body weight. The derived equation is: Sow weight (lb.) = (26.85 x flank measure in inches) - 628. Use weight and backfat measurement to estimate feed intake requirements. (See Kansas State University Gestation Feeding Guidelines at: <http://www.asi.ksu.edu/DesktopModules/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=3010>)

Estimando el peso usando la medida entre flancos

Se puede estimar el peso de la cerda midiendo la distancia entre sus flancos con una cinta métrica. La fórmula a usar es: Peso (en lb.) = (26.85 x medida en pulgadas) - 628. Use el peso y la grasa dorsal para estimar los requerimientos alimenticios. (Vea las guías de alimentación de la Universidad Estatal de Kansas en: <http://www.asi.ksu.edu/DesktopModules/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=3010>)



Ultrasonic Backfat Estimate

Palpate (feel) the last rib (slightly forward and above rear flank). Follow the last rib up to the sow's spine, then drop back down 2½ inches off midline to position the ultrasound transducer to measure backfat depth. Check the ultrasound manufacturer's recommendations for accurately estimating sow backfat. It is important to be consistent in the method used to measure and estimate backfat.

Estimando la grasa dorsal con ultrasonido

Encuentre la última costilla (ligeramente arriba y hacia el frente del flanco). Siga la última costilla hasta la espina, mida 2.5 pulgadas hacia el lado para encontrar el sitio para medir la grasa dorsal. Revise las recomendaciones del proveedor para estimar la grasa dorsal. Es importante usar este método para medir grasa dorsal consistentemente.



	<p>BCS 1 Excessively Thin Backfat: < 10 mm (<0.39 inches)</p> <p>Ribs, hips and backbone are easily visible and palpable. Sow is in poor condition and needs large amounts of muscle and fat gain to maintain productivity. Significantly increase feed allowance to this sow.</p> <p>Condición Corporal 1 Excesivamente delgada Grasa dorsal: <10mm (0.39 pulgadas)</p> <p>Las costillas, caderas y espina se ven y se sienten fácilmente. La cerda tiene mala condición y necesita ganar músculo y grasa para mantener su productividad. Aumente la cantidad de alimento ofrecido a esta cerda.</p>	
	<p>BCS 2 Moderately Thin Backfat: 10-15 mm (0.39-0.59 inches)</p> <p>Ribs, hips and backbone can be palpated with slight pressure. A moderate increase in feed intake is required before this sow farrows her next litter.</p> <p>Condición Corporal 2 Moderadamente delgada Grasa dorsal: 10 - 15 mm (0.39 -0.59 pulgadas)</p> <p>Las costillas, caderas y espina se sienten con poca presión. La cerda requiere un aumento moderado en su consumo alimenticio antes de su próxima camada.</p>	
	<p>BCS 3 Ideal Condition Backfat: 15-22 mm (0.59-0.86 inches)</p> <p>Ribs, hips and backbone can be palpated with firm pressure, but cannot be observed visually. Monitor feed allowance to maintain this level of condition.</p> <p>Condición Corporal 3 Condición ideal Grasa dorsal: 15 - 22 mm (0.59 -0.86 pulgadas)</p> <p>Las costillas, caderas y espina se sienten con presión firme pero no se observan. Monitoree su consumo de alimento para mantener esta condición corporal.</p>	
	<p>BCS 4 Moderately Fat Backfat: 23-29 mm (0.90-1.13 inches)</p> <p>Ribs, hips and backbone cannot be palpated. Reduce feed allowance moderately. Exceeding this sow's dietary requirements results in inefficient use of diet and increased manure volume.</p> <p>Condición Corporal 4 Moderadamente gorda Grasa dorsal: 23-29 mm (0.90 - 1.13 pulgadas)</p> <p>Las costillas, caderas y espina no se sienten. Reduzca su alimento moderadamente. Exceder los requisitos alimenticios resulta en uso ineficiente de la dieta y mayor producción de estiércol.</p>	
	<p>BCS 5 Excessively Fat Backfat: >30 mm (>1.17 inches)</p> <p>Ribs, hips and backbone cannot be palpated. Sow has gained excessive amounts of fat tissue. Reduce feed allowance to bring her to a more ideal body condition. Sows at BCS 5 frequently have lower feed intake and perform poorly in lactation.</p> <p>Condición Corporal 5 Excesivamente gorda Grasa dorsal: >30 mm (>1.17 pulgadas)</p> <p>Las costillas, caderas y espina no se sienten. La cerda ha ganado demasiado tejido graso. Reduzca su alimento para llegar a una condición ideal. Cerdas en esta condición comen menos y se desempeñan mal durante la lactancia.</p>	