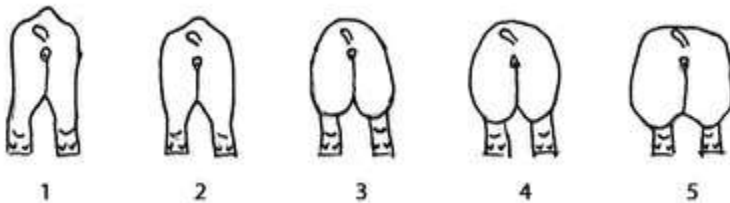


Guide from Penn State Extension

Body Condition Scoring Graphic

Body condition scores can be assessed through visual appraisal as well as by handling the animal.



Score	Condition	Detection of ribs, back bones, hip bones and pin bones
1	Emaciated	Obvious; easy to see and sharp to the feel
2	Thin	Easy to feel with pressure, but smooth
3	Ideal	Smooth and rounded with an even feel
4	Fat	Not able to see bones. Can feel bones with firm pressure.
5	Overly fat	Not able to see bones. Unable to feel ribs even with firm pressure. Thick fat covering. Table top appearance across back of animal.

A word of caution. Red Wattles typically have a flatter appearance across the back than indicated here (see figure # 3) even when in ideal condition. These diagrams are a good tool when appraising from the rear, hip area.

Our old timer breeders used to place a plate on their backs. If it slid off, the hog was a feeder not a breeder.