

Assessment – Where are we??

The Horses –
Body Weight, Body Condition Score



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Body Weight

- Visual Estimate
- Weight Tapes
- Calculation from Heart Girth Measurement
 - $BW \text{ (lbs.)} = (\text{heart girth}^2 \times \text{length})/y$
 - Heart girth in inches
 - Length in inches, point of shoulder to point of buttocks
 - Y = adjustment factor (see Table 2 in HIH information)
 - $BW = \text{Girth} \times \text{Girth} \times \text{Body Length}/300$
- Scales

Use of Horse Weigh Tape



Body Condition Scoring (BCS)

- Developed by Dr. Don Henneke, 1983
- Nine-category scoring system
 - 1 = extremely emaciated
 - 9 = extremely fat
- Horses accumulate fat in certain areas in a set order
- “Condition” = amount of body fat
- Weight alone does not distinguish between muscle and fat
- All aspects of description must be met
- Half score increments possible

Body Fat Determination

- Visual
- Palpation
- BCS areas receive equal emphasis

BCS – Depends on.....

- What is the recommendation for YOUR horse?
 - Sex
 - Age
 - Owner's Plans

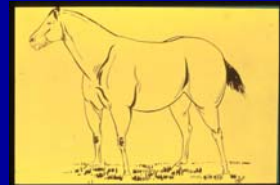
BCS – Optimum Generalities

- BCS = 6-8 Mare
- BCS = 6 Performance Horse
- BSC = 5 Maintenance



“Have a 4? Feed More!!”

“9 has you Whining? Stop
his Dining!”



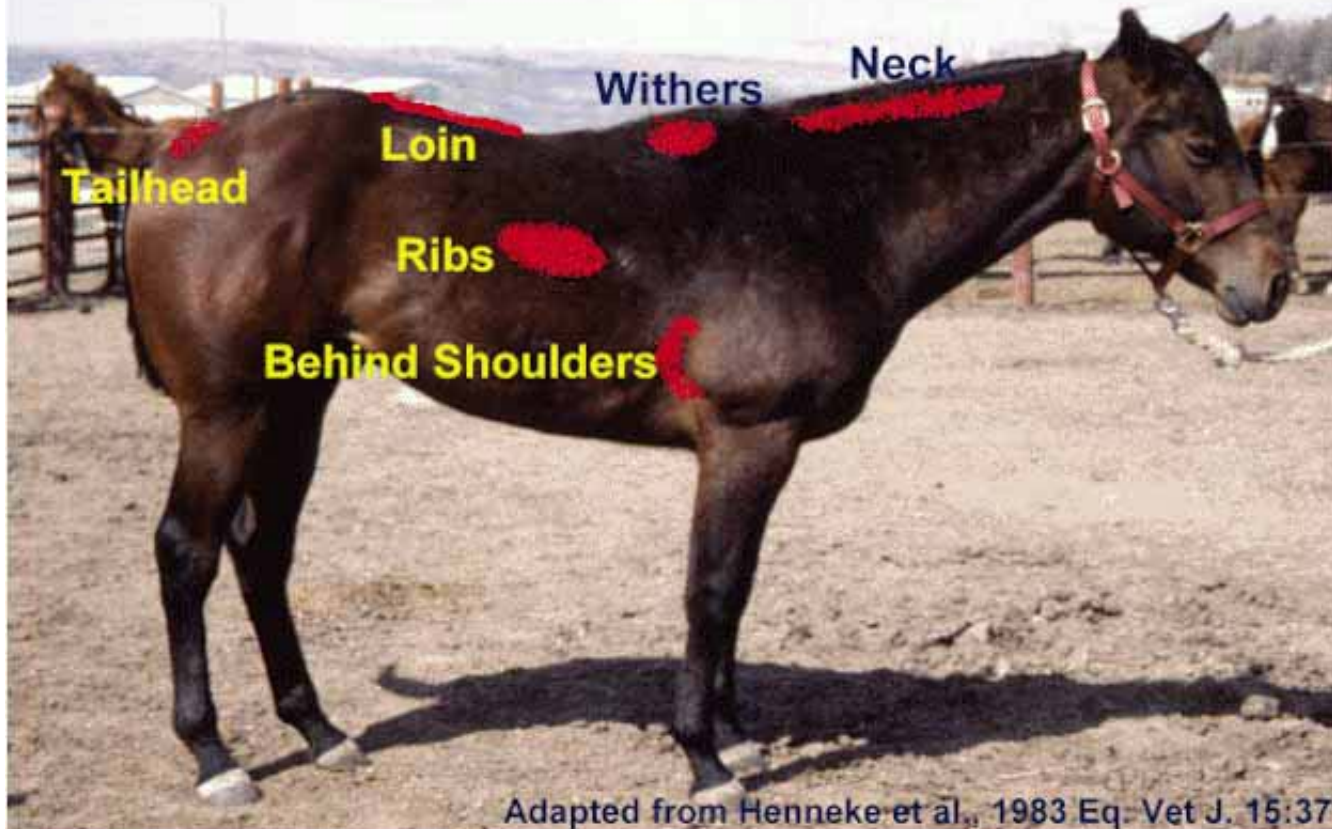
Optimum BCS (1 of 2, Kohnke, 1992)

Class of Horse	Condition Score
Endurance Horse	4-5
Eventing	4-5
Polo and Polocrosse	4-5
Ranch Horses	4-5
Open Mares	4-6
Stallions (off season)	4-6
Standardbred Racing Horses	4-6

Optimum BCS (2 of 2, Kohnke, 1992)

Class of Horse	Condition Score
Hunters	5-7
Show Jumpers	5-7
Stallions (breeding)	5-7
Thoroughbred Racehorses	5-7
Dressage Horse	6-8
Quarter Horses	6-8
Show Hacks	6-8
Ponies on Spring Pasture	7-8
Pregnant Mares	7-8

Anatomical Sites Evaluated for Fat Deposition



BCS 1



BCS 1



BCS 2



BCS 3

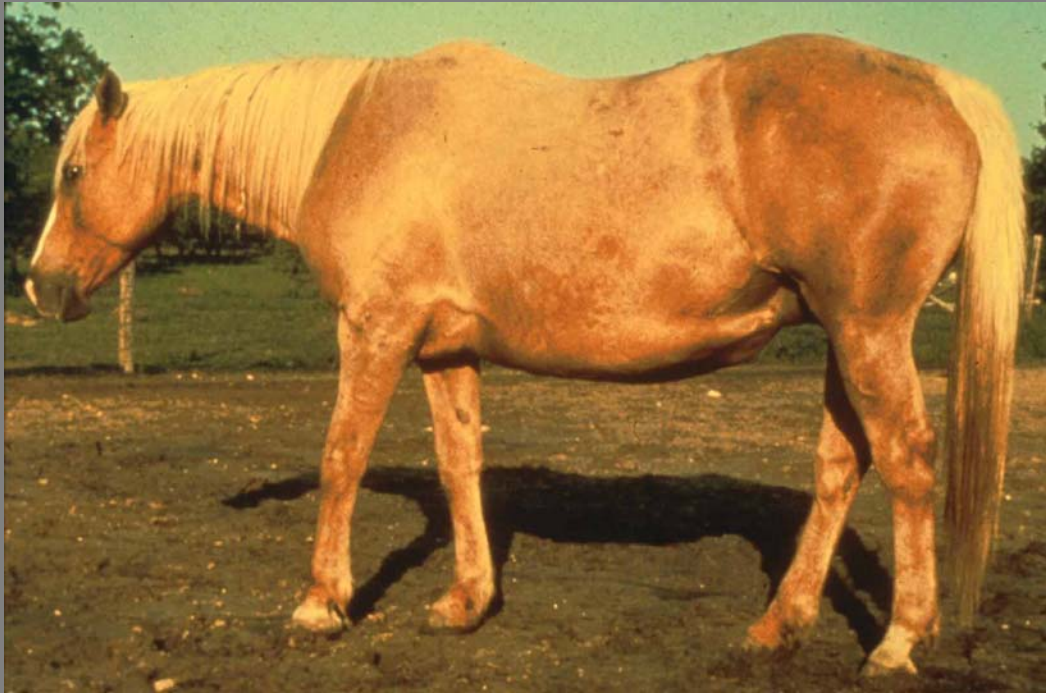


BCS 4



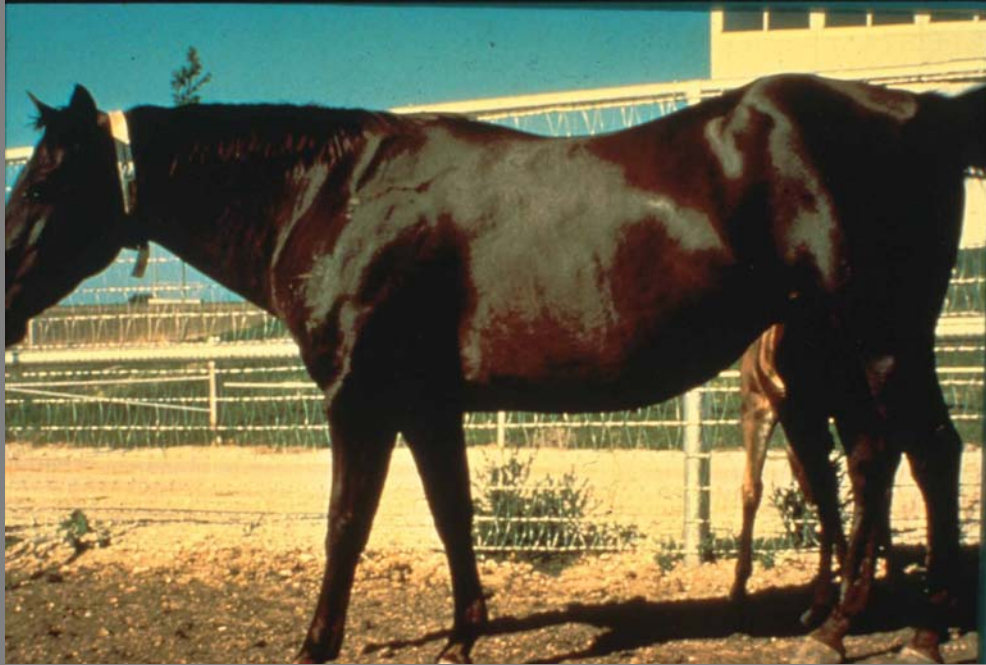


BCS 5





BCS 6

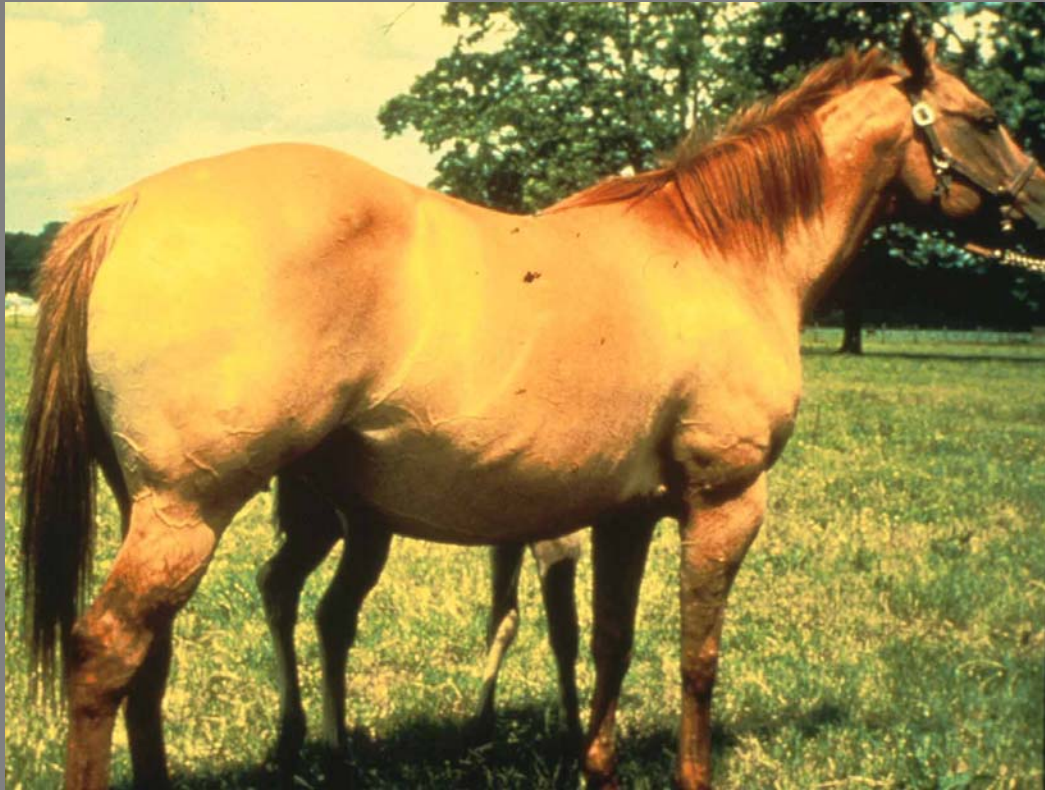




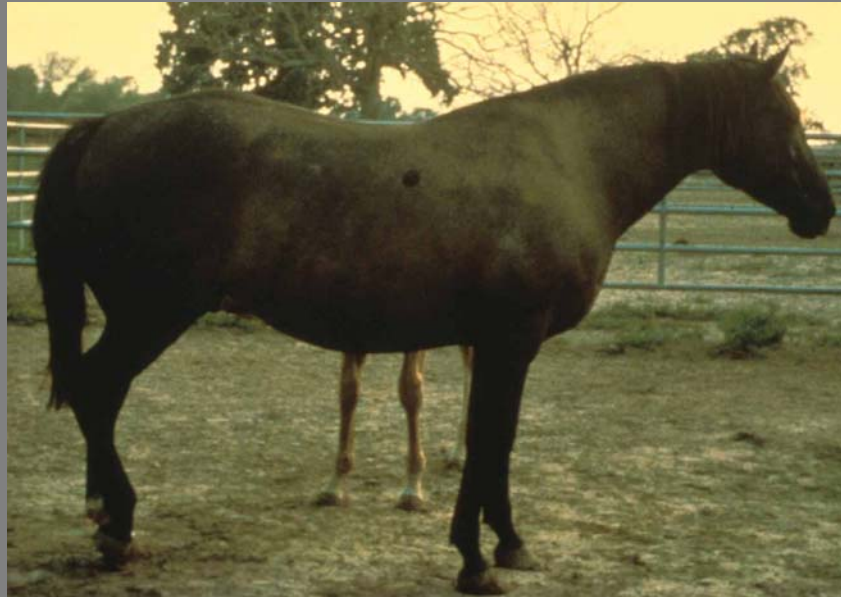
BCS 7



BCS 8



BCS 9



Importance of BCS

- Excessive body fat (BSC > 8.5)
 - Colic
 - Decreased reproductive performance
 - Developmental orthopedic disease
 - Lameness
- Low body fat (BSC < 4.0)
 - Impaired reproductive efficiency
 - Reduced foal size
 - Delayed estrus
 - Impaired immune response

Importance of BCS continued

- Gestation length
 - BCS 4.5 (thin) 352 d
 - BCS 6.0 (moderate) 343 d

^{LW} **Extension**



COMMON
SENSE!!