# Dairy Cattle Body Condition Scoring Chart

Dr. James D. Ferguson  
**Center for Animal Health and Productivity**  
School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>overall appearance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.75</td>
<td>Hook bone just visible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 4.50            | Flat  
Pin bone not visible |
| 4.25            | Tips of transverse processes not visible |
| 4.00            | Flat U  
No visible sacral or coccygeal ligaments  
Transverse processes just visible |
| 3.75            | Tail head ligament not visible  
Sacral ligament barely visible |
| **Too Fat**     |             |
| 3.50            | U  
Coocygeal ligament barely visible  
Sacral ligament visible |
| 3.25            | Sacral/coccygeal ligaments visible |
| >3.0            | U  
Sacral/coccygeal ligaments appearance |
| **START - Rump V or U** |             |
| <3.0            | V  
Hook and pin bone fat pads |
| 2.75            | Hook is angular/pin padded |
| 2.50            | Hook is angular/pin is angular  
palpable fat pad on pin |
| **Too Thin**    |             |
| <2.5            | V  
Hook and pin bone angular  
Look at transverse processes |
| 2.25            | -  
Short ribs  
Transverse processe edge to spine  
.5-.6 tip to spine |
| 2.00            | -  
.75 tip to spine |
| <2.0            | -  
Thurl bone appearance  
Spine, overall appearance |