

**Better Returns
Programme**

Condition Scoring of Ewes

Condition is scored by handling the ewe over and around the backbone in the loin area behind the last rib. Use the scoring system described on the back of this sheet. Half scores such as 2.5 or 3.5 can be used. Randomly score 10% of sheep from the middle of the group.

Recording the score

Record the condition score of each sheep with an X on the chart below. The middle score of the distribution is close to the average. In the example here the median value is 3.0 but by using the chart you can see that the average is just less than 3.0.

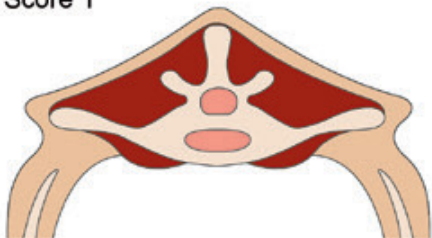


				X				
				X				
			X	X				
			X	X	X			
			X	X	X			
		X	X	X	X			
	X	X	X	X	X			
	X	X	X	X	X	X		
1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0

Condition Score								
1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0

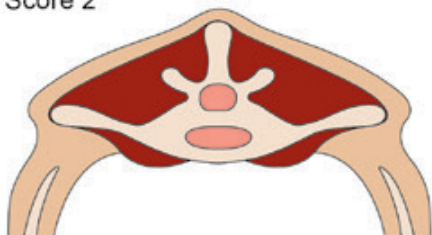
How to Condition Score

Score 1



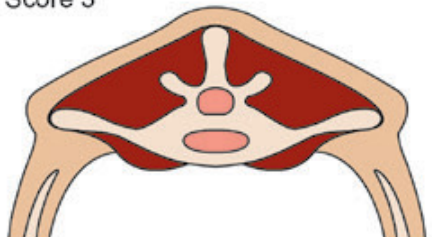
The vertical and horizontal processes are prominent and sharp. The fingers can be pushed easily below the transverse and each process can be felt. The loin is thin with no fat cover.

Score 2



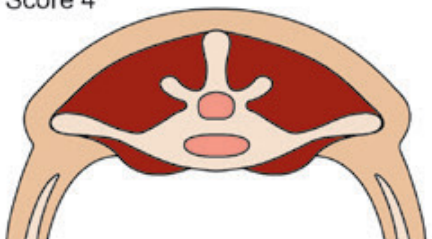
The vertical processes are prominent but smooth; individual processes being felt only as corrugations. The horizontal processes are smooth and rounded, but it is still possible to press fingers under. The loin muscle is a moderate depth but with little fat cover.

Score 3



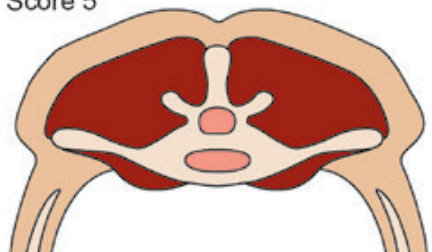
The vertical processes are smooth and rounded; the bone is only felt with pressure. The horizontal processes are also smooth and well covered; hard pressure is required with the fingers to find the ends. The loin muscle is full and with a moderate fat cover.

Score 4



The vertical processes are only detectable as a line. The ends of the horizontal processes cannot be felt. The loin muscles are full and rounded, and have a thick covering of fat.

Score 5



The vertical and transverse processes cannot be detected even with pressure; there is a dimple in the fat layers where the processes should be. The loin muscles are very full and covered with very thick fat.

For more information contact:

Better Returns Programme

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EBLEX is a division of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB).

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Information taken from the lifetimewool.com.au scoring card.