

BODY CONDITION SCORING

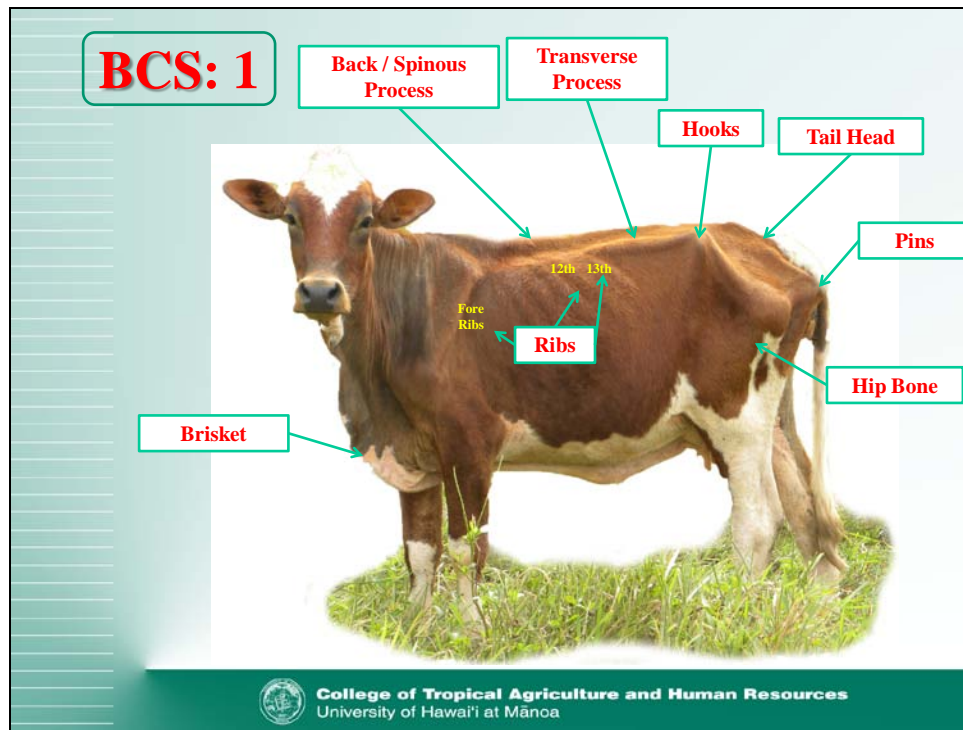


College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Body Condition Scoring

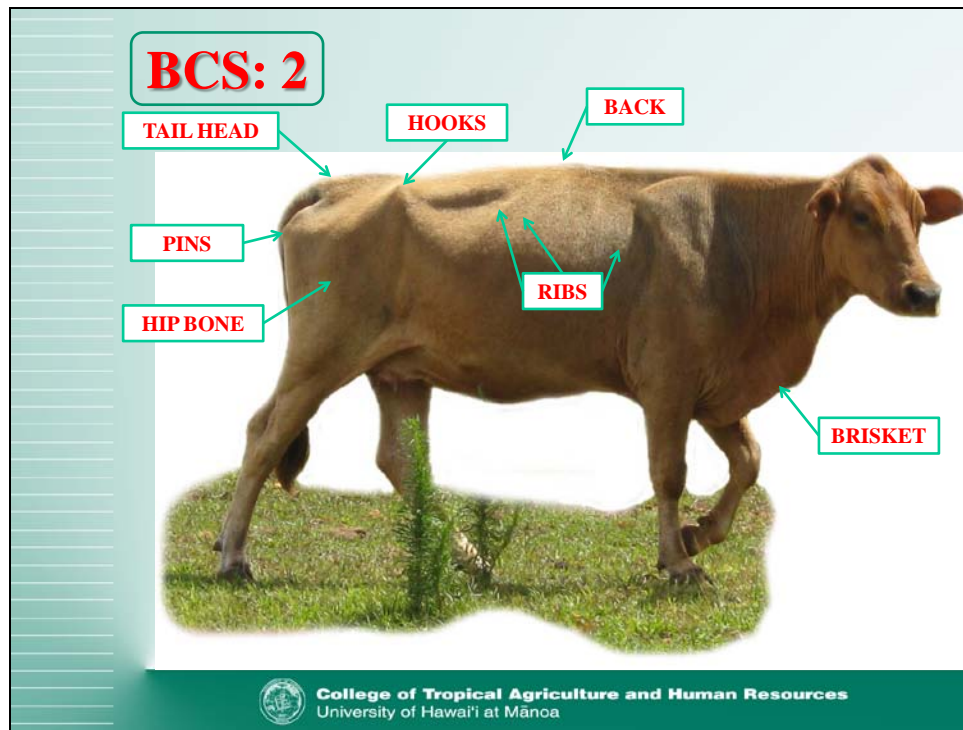
- Thin (BCS 1-3)
 - Thin and angular appearance
 - Hooks, Pins, backbone, and ribs are readily visible with minimal fat.
 - No visible fat around tail head or brisket.





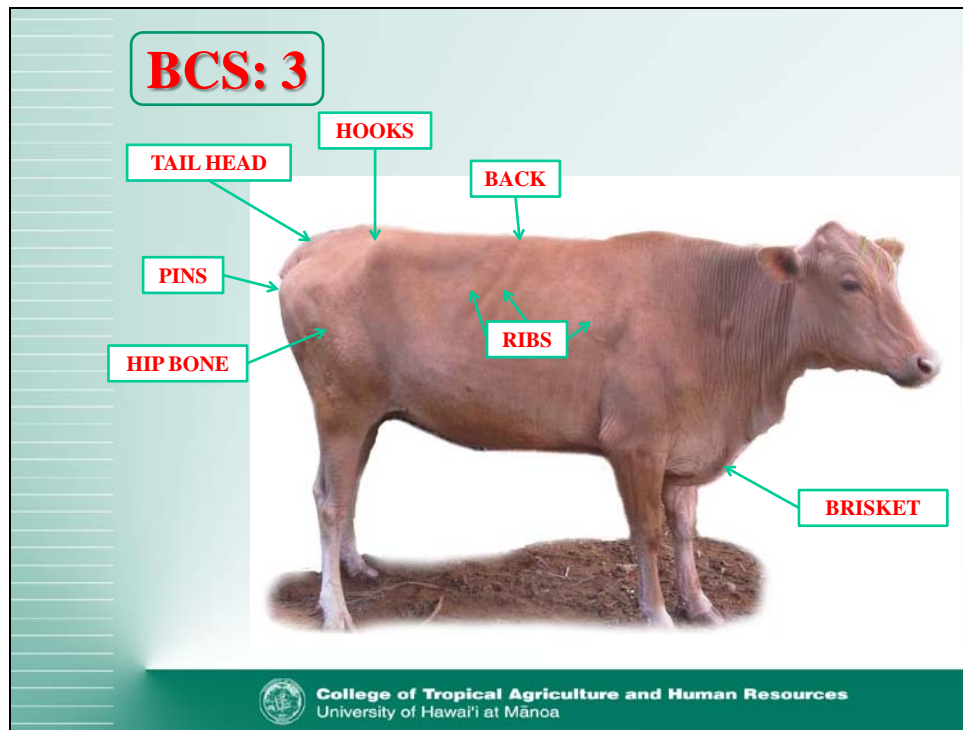
Description:

- Severely emaciated.
- Bone structure of shoulder, back bone, ribs, hooks and pins is sharp to the touch and easily visible.
- Little evidence of fat deposits or muscling.



Description:

- Emaciated
- Little evidence of fat deposition.
- Some muscling in the hindquarters.
- Backbone feels sharp to the touch.



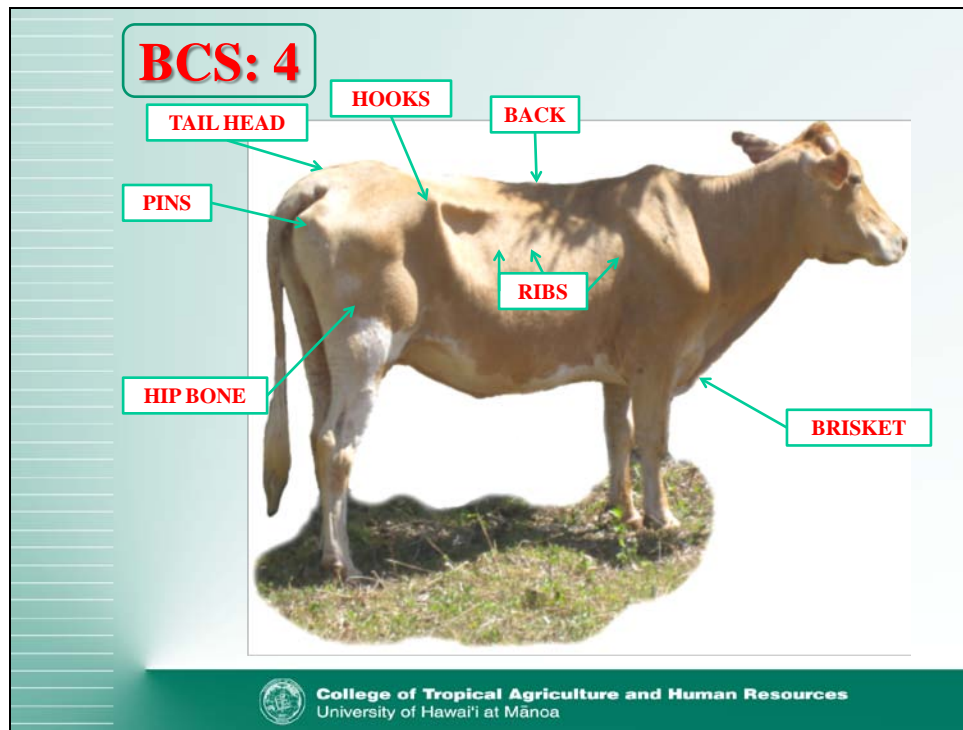
Description:

- Very thin, no fat on ribs or brisket.
- Some muscling visible.
- Backbone easily visible.

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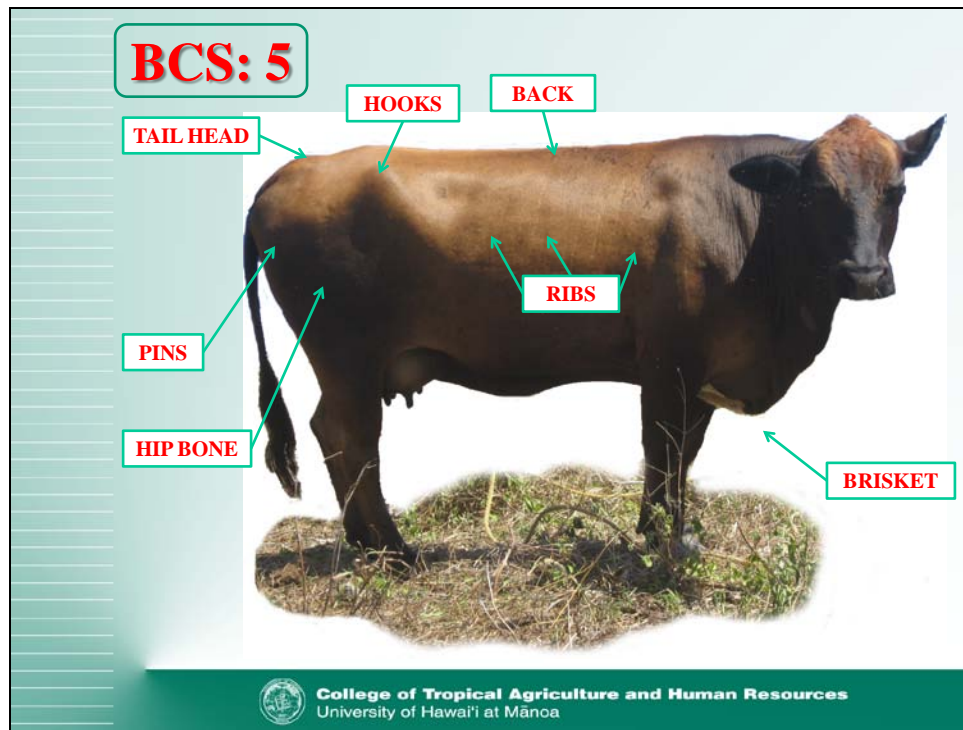
- Ideal (BCS 4-6)
 - Good overall appearance
 - BCS 5 hips are visible with some fat over hooks and pins.
 - Backbone no longer visible
 - BCS 6 or 7 ribs are no longer visible and there is a more fleshy appearance.





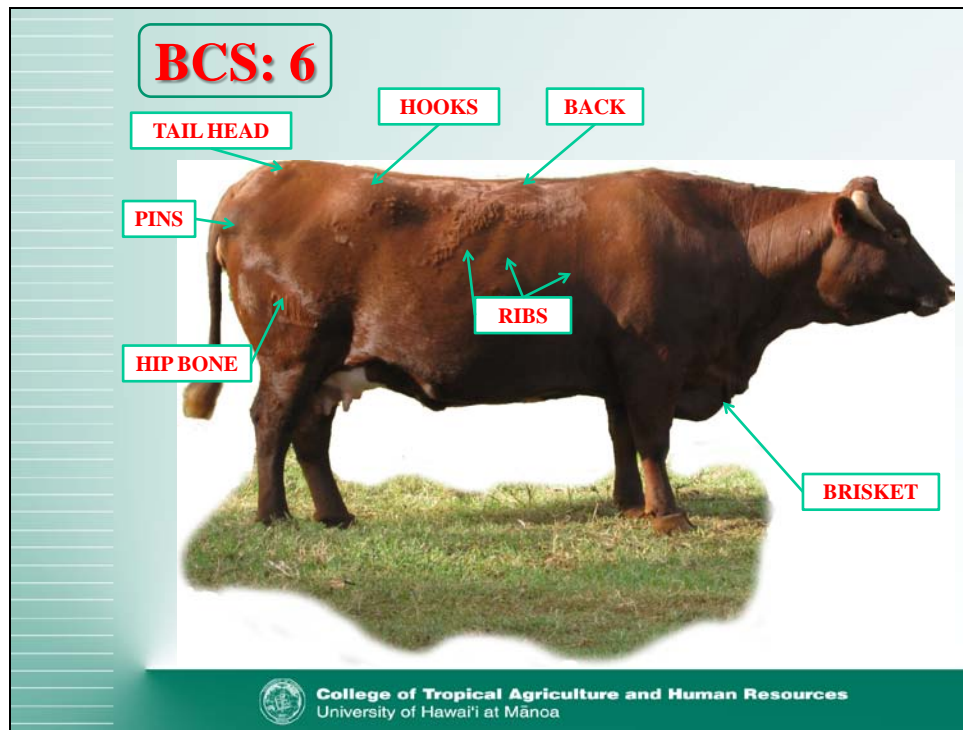
Description:

- Fore ribs are not noticeable.
- 12th and 13th ribs can be distinguished, especially in cows with big spring and width between ribs.
- Backbone can be identified but feels rounded rather than sharp.



Description:

- 12th and 13th ribs are not visible to the eye.
- Backbone not visible to the eye but can be felt with firm pressure.
- Each area on the side of the tail head is well filled but not rounded.



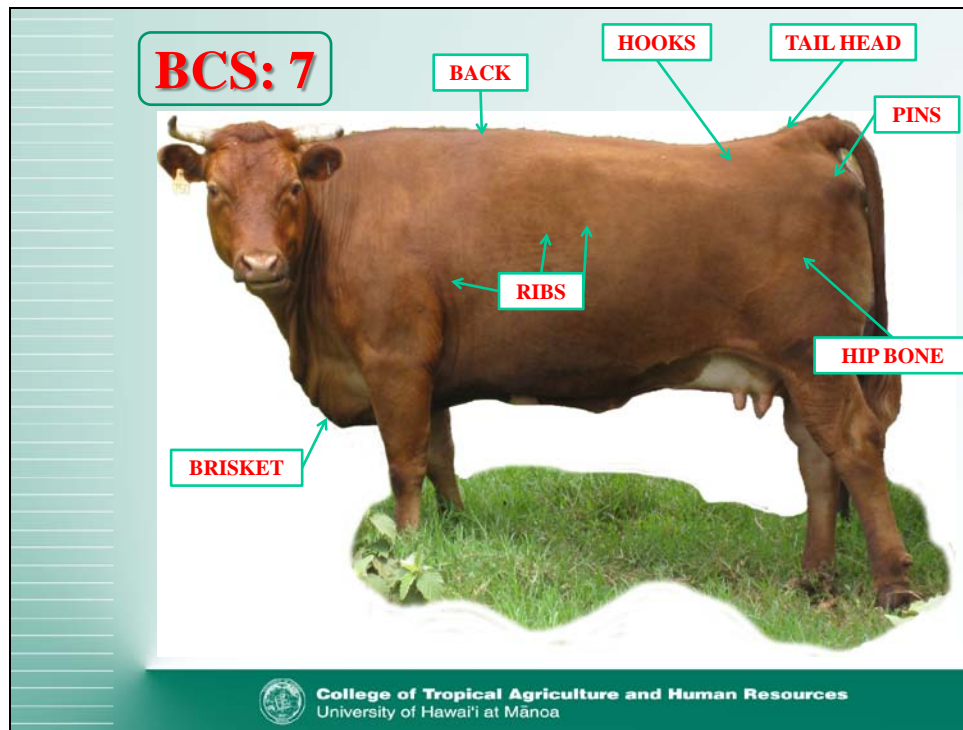
Description:

- Ribs are fully covered and appear spongy.
- Hindquarters are plump and full.
- Sponginess is noticeable over fore ribs and over tail head.

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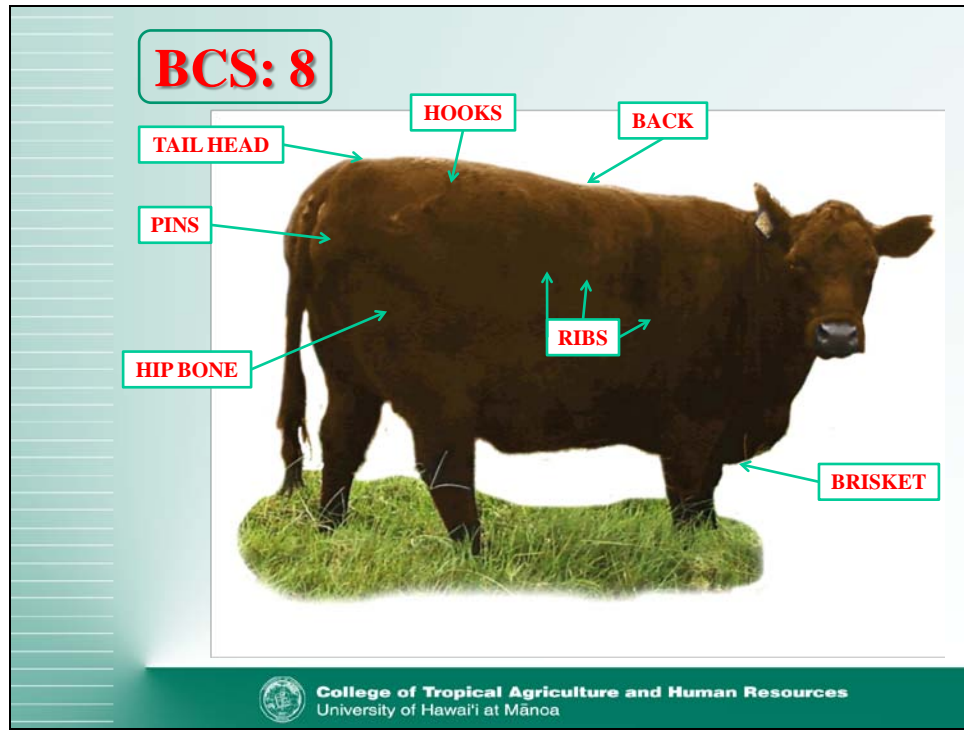
- Over-conditioned (BCS 7-9)
 - Smooth boxy appearance.
 - Noticeable fat deposits over tail head, brisket, and pins.
 - Bone structure is hidden from sight or touch.





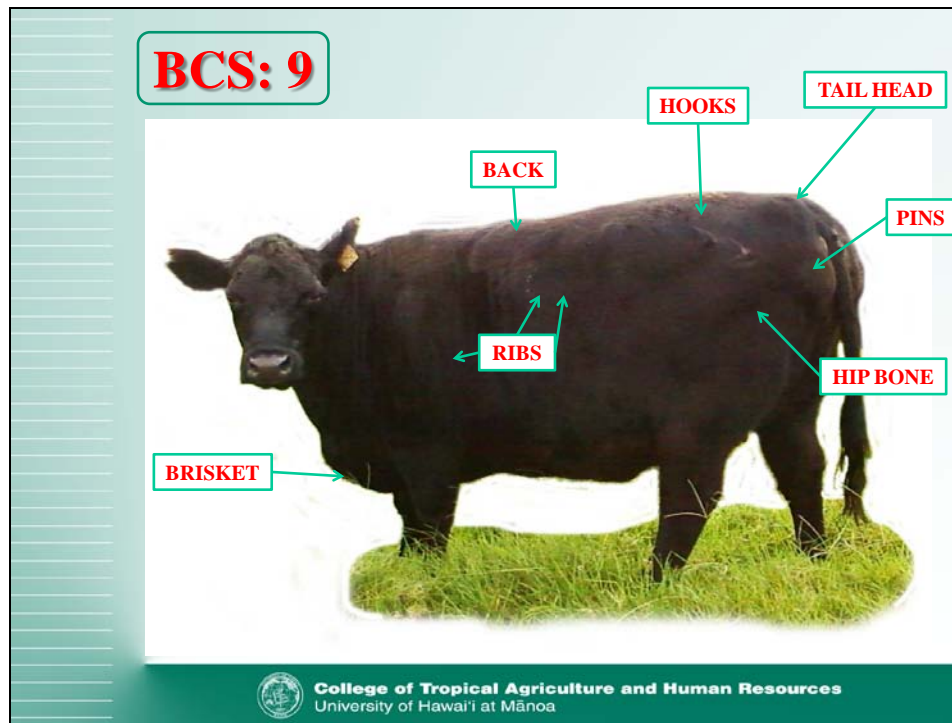
Description:

- Very good flesh, brisket is full.
- Fat cover is thick and spongy and patchiness is likely.
- Ribs are very smooth.



Description:

- Obese, back very square, brisket distended, heavy fat pockets around tail head.
- Square appearance.



Description:

- Rarely observed.
- Very obese.
- Animals mobility maybe impaired by excessive fat.

1 2 3


4 5

6 7 8 9

CAUTION

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OPTIMAL

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