BODY CONDITION SCORING FOR GOATS

Body condition is an indication of a goat's energy reserves and can impact health, reproduction and other production parameters. Periodically scoring body condition can help you evaluate the nutritional needs of your herd. Body condition scoring is a combination of visual and hands-on evaluation. Score in half-point increments – an ideal score for goats falls in the range of 2.5 to 4.0, depending on life stage. During the breeding season, an ideal score is between 2.5 and 3.0.

**SCORE ONE:** Extremely thin or starved appearance. Rib bones are visible. Vertebrae and hip bones are prominent and sharp. No fat cover is visible.

**SCORE TWO:** Thin appearance with only a few back ribs visible. Vertebrae and hip bones are less prominent. Minimal fat cover is visible.

**SCORE THREE:** Fairly smooth appearance with minimal visible ribbing. Vertebrae and hip bones are covered with little prominence.

**SCORE FOUR:** Smooth and completely covered appearance with ribs and vertebrae completely covered.

**SCORE FIVE:** Obese appearance. Rib cage covered with extra fat. Fleshiness is visible in the brisket area and in front of the shoulders.

Contact your local Purina representative to develop a nutrition program for your herd that supports optimal body condition scores.

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