

HENNEKE BODY CONDITION SCORE SHEET

DATE: 11/21/25

NAME: Bill

ANIMAL ID: _____

DESCRIPTION: _____

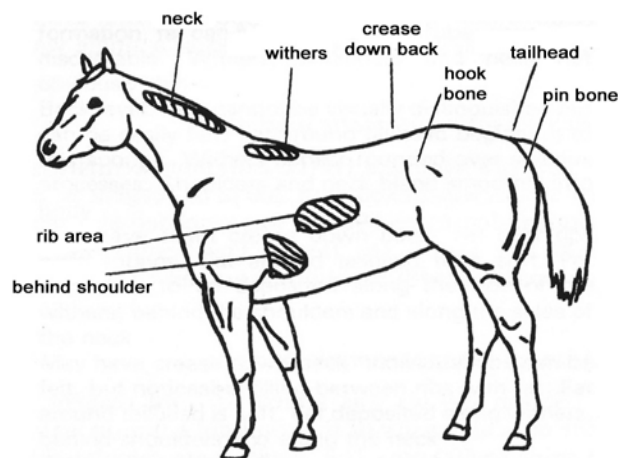
☒ VISUAL or ☐ HANDS-ON ASSESSMENT

COMMENTS: _____

OVERALL BODY CONDITION SCORE: 25 ÷ 6 = 4.17

sum total overall score

(circle descriptions for each area of the body then average together)



modified from Henneke et al. EVJ 1983;15:371-372

Condition	Neck	Withers	Shoulder	Ribs	Back	Tailhead Area
1 Poor (extremely emaciated)	Bone structure easily noticeable	Bone structure easily noticeable	Bone structure easily noticeable	Ribs projecting prominently	Spinous processes projecting prominently	Tailhead, pinbones, and hook bones projecting prominently
No fatty tissue can be felt						
2 Very Thin (emaciated)	Bone structure faintly discernible	Bone structure faintly discernible	Bone structure faintly discernible	Ribs prominent	Slight fat covering over base of spinous processes. Transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded. Spinous processes are prominent	Tailhead prominent Pin bones prominent Hook bones prominent
3 Thin	Neck accentuated	Withers ✓ accentuated	Shoulder accentuated	Slight fat cover over ribs. Ribs easily discernible	Fat buildup halfway on spinous processes, but easily discernible. Traverse processes cannot be felt	Tailhead prominent but individual vertebrae cannot be visually identified. Hook bones appear rounded, but are still easily discernible. Pin bones not distinguishable
4 Moderately Thin	Neck not ✓ obviously thin	Withers not obviously thin	Shoulder not ✓ obviously thin	Faint outline of ribs discernible	Negative crease (peaked appearance) along back	Prominence depends on ✓ conformation. Fat can be felt. Hook bones not discernible
5 Moderate	Neck blends smoothly into body	Withers rounded over spinous processes	Shoulder blends smoothly into body	Ribs cannot be visually distinguished, but ✓ can be easily felt	Back is level ✓	Fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy
6 Moderately Fleshy	Fat beginning to be deposited	Fat beginning to be deposited	Fat beginning to be deposited behind shoulder	Fat over ribs feels spongy	May have a slight positive crease (a groove) down back	Fat around tailhead feels soft
7 Fleshy	Fat deposited along neck	Fat deposited along withers	Fat deposited behind shoulder	Individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable fat filling between ribs	May have a positive crease down the back	Fat around tailhead is soft
8 Fat	Noticeable thickening of neck	Area along withers filled with fat	Area behind shoulder filled with fat	Difficult to feel ribs	Positive crease down back	Fat around tailhead very soft
9 Extremely Fat	Bulging fat	Bulging fat	Bulging fat	Patchy fat appearing over ribs	Obvious crease down back Flank filled with fat	Bulging fat around tailhead (prepared by A Kane USDA APHIS 11/21/17)