## Body Condition Scoring and Weight Estimation in Sheep

## **Body Condition Scores**

are buried in fat.

## Score Description **Details** Spine sticks up Backbone 1 **Extremely emaciated** Prominent and sharp All individual vertebrae **Short ribs** Ends are sharp and easy to press between, can be felt easily. There is no muscle or fat covering over and around the bones. Sheep in this Thin, the surface Eyecondition have a serious muscle tending to feel hollow problem and should normally be culled immediately. Spine prominent but smooth \ 2 **Backbone** Prominent but smooth Lean Muscles medium size Short ribs Smooth well-rounded Individual bones can be felt, but they are rounded ends can feel between, Transverse rather than sharp. There is over and around each some muscle covering the smoothly Fingers go under bones, but this feels Reasonable depth with Eyethe surface tending to concave rather than muscle convex. feel flat Can be felt but smooth 3 **Just Right or Good** Spine Smooth Backbone Condition Moderate fat cover and rounded The ends of the transverse Ends are smooth and Short ribs Muscles full processes of the well covered firm vertebrae can be felt only pressure necessary to with firm pressure. There feel under and is good full muscle with between short ribs Fingers need hard presure to find ends some fat covering the Full and rounded Eyebones, and this feels muscle convex rather than concave. 4 Fat **Backbone** Detectable with Thick fat cover Spine The ends of the bones are pressure on the thumb only just Muscles full detectable Short ribs Individual short ribs not detectable, but their can only be felt with position can just be made out with very firm firm pressure. pressure. There is a thick End of Full with a covering Eyebones covering of fat over the layer of fat muscle can not muscle covering the be felt vertebrae. Spine not Can be felt with firm 5 **Grossly Fat or Obese** Dimple over spine **Backbone** detectable Dense fat pressure Nothing can be detected cover under a thick layer of fat Short ribs Cannot be felt even covering the loin; even with firm pressure the tips of the spinous Eye-Muscle cannot be felt End of processes of the backbone muscle due to a thick layer of