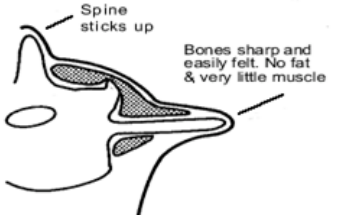
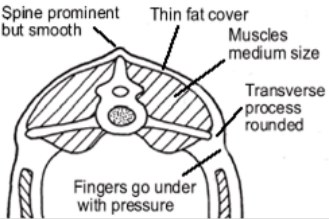
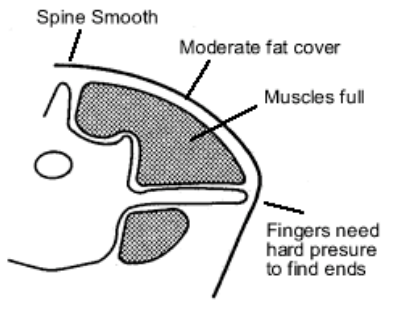
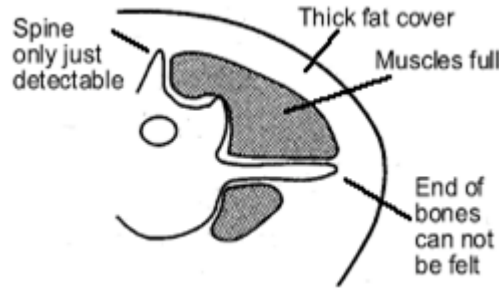
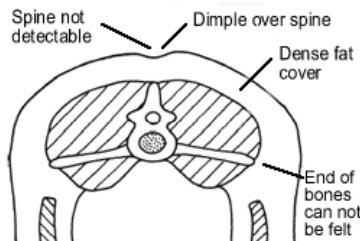


Body Condition Scoring and Weight Estimation in Sheep

Body Condition Scores

Score	Description		Details
1	<p>Extremely emaciated</p> <p>All individual vertebrae can be felt easily. There is no muscle or fat covering the bones. Sheep in this condition have a serious problem and should normally be culled immediately.</p>		<p>Backbone Prominent and sharp</p> <p>Short ribs Ends are sharp and easy to press between, over and around</p> <p>Eye-muscle Thin, the surface tending to feel hollow</p>
2	<p>Lean</p> <p>Individual bones can be felt, but they are rounded rather than sharp. There is some muscle covering the bones, but this feels concave rather than convex.</p>		<p>Backbone Prominent but smooth</p> <p>Short ribs Smooth well-rounded ends can feel between, over and around each smoothly</p> <p>Eye-muscle Reasonable depth with the surface tending to feel flat</p>
3	<p>Just Right or Good Condition</p> <p>The ends of the transverse processes of the vertebrae can be felt only with firm pressure. There is good full muscle with some fat covering the bones, and this feels convex rather than concave.</p>		<p>Backbone Can be felt but smooth and rounded</p> <p>Short ribs Ends are smooth and well covered firm pressure necessary to feel under and between short ribs</p> <p>Eye-muscle Full and rounded</p>
4	<p>Fat</p> <p>The ends of the bones are not detectable, but their position can just be made out with very firm pressure. There is a thick covering of fat over the muscle covering the vertebrae.</p>		<p>Backbone Detectable with pressure on the thumb</p> <p>Short ribs Individual short ribs can only be felt with firm pressure.</p> <p>Eye-muscle Full with a covering layer of fat</p>
5	<p>Grossly Fat or Obese</p> <p>Nothing can be detected under a thick layer of fat covering the loin; even the tips of the spinous processes of the backbone are buried in fat.</p>		<p>Backbone Can be felt with firm pressure</p> <p>Short ribs Cannot be felt even with firm pressure</p> <p>Eye-muscle Muscle cannot be felt due to a thick layer of fat.</p>