

Cattle Condition Assessment Scores

Cattle condition is often assessed by observation using the standard **AUSMEAT SCORES**.

A description of these scores appears in the table below. Use this sheet to help you assess cattle condition out in the paddock.

Fat thickness .P8 Rump(mm)	Ausmeat fat score	Description
0 to 2	1	No fat around tail head.
3 to 6	2	Short ribs of loin sharp and easily distinguished, hip bones and ribs are hard to the touch.
7 to 12	3	Short ribs can be individually felt but feel increasingly rounded. Ribs clearly felt. Hip bone still quite hard and only light deposit of flank fat and around tail head.
13 to 22	4	Short ribs only felt with firm pressure. Moderate fat cover. Hipbone carrying some fat cover.
23 to 32	5	Short ribs cannot be felt or need very firm pressure. Ribs and hip well covered. Tail head fat as slight mounds, soft to touch.
33+	6	Hard to distinguish bone structure. Tail head buried in fatty tissue. All other sites show obvious soft fat deposits. With a hand placed flat over the ribs behind the shoulder, it is difficult to detect these ribs.

Source: CALM Assessment Manual (1994), cited in *FutureBeef: Live assessing to meet market specifications*. 2012 <http://futurebeef.com.au/topics/markets-and-marketing/live-assessing-to-meet-market-specifications/> Accessed 06/06/2013.