

A photograph of two women in blue uniforms standing in a barn. The woman on the right is wearing a pink hijab and glasses. A white goat is visible in the foreground. The barn has wooden slatted floors and metal railings.

RL31103 SMALL RUMINANT PRODUCTION

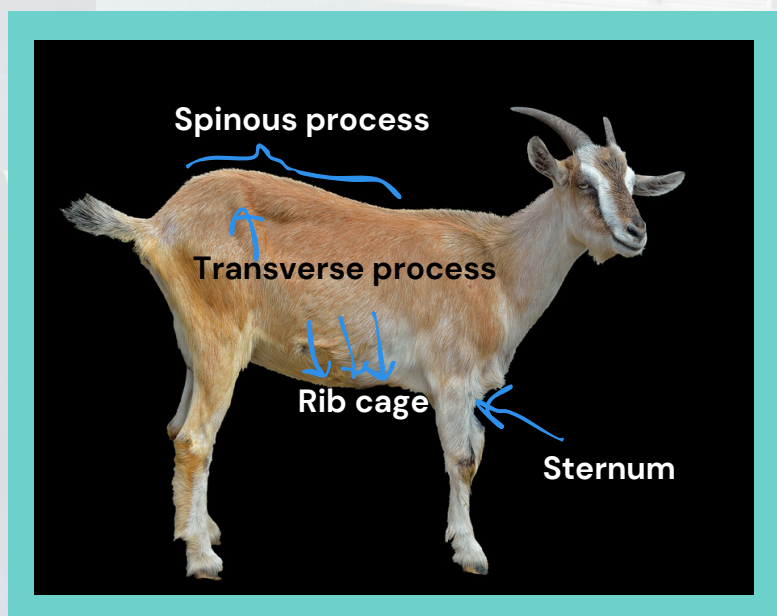
Body Condition Scoring: method to assess body fat reserves

Written by: Siti Aisyah Sidik
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Body Condition Scoring (BCS)

Purpose

The reason for doing the body condition scoring is to assess the amount of body fat or energy reserve in a goat. Thus, nutritional and feeding management can be applied based on the score given.



4 major locations should be examined by palpating the restraint goat's body. They are:

1. Lumbar region (Spinous process and transverse process)
2. Rib cage
3. Sternum area (grasped between the thumb and finger)

The BCS can be done 2 months prior to breeding. A score of 2.5 to 3.5 is considered to be a good body condition. Flushing is needed for poor body condition goats. For overweight goats, low energy diet can be applied.

References:

1. Detweiler, G., Gipson, T., Merkel, R.C., Goetsch, A. and Sahlu, T. 2008. Body Condition Scores in Goats. Pages 127-133 in Proc. 23rd Ann. Goat Field Day, Langston University, Langston, OK.

Score

0-5

Scoring Range
(Scale)

1-2

indicates
management and
health problem

5

The goat is very fat.
Transverse process
not detectable. Over
feeding.