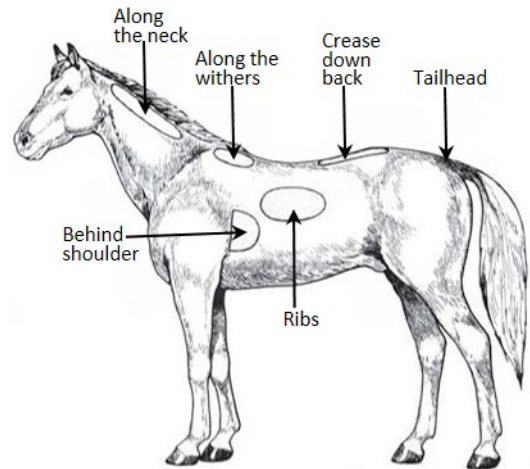


9. Research has shown that health complications, such as heat stress, stress of traveling, and showing can be exacerbated at low body condition scores. Due to concerns for animal welfare and the objective of 4-H to educate and promote quality animal husbandry; horses, ponies and/or mules shall not be shown with a body condition score of less than 4 based on the Henneke scale (ribs easily discernible, tops of spinous process easily discernible, tailhead prominent with hook bones easily discernible, withers accentuated, and neck obviously thin). If you have questions about the body condition score of your horse, or if you are not sure your horse will pass inspection, please contact your Area Advisory representative before the Area show. The Area Horse Show Chair and/or the State Horse Show Superintendent or their designee will assess animals in question. If there is a thin horse, the Advisory committee will make a final decision whether or not to disqualify the animal.



Horse Body Condition Scores and Descriptions <i>(Adapted from Henneke et al., 1983)</i>	
Score	Condition Description
1 - Poor	Animal extremely emaciated. Spinal vertebrae, ribs, tailhead, and point of hip and point of buttocks project prominently; bone structure of withers, shoulders, and neck easily noticeable; no fatty tissue can be felt.
2 - Very Thin	Animal emaciated. Slight fat covering over the base of spinal vertebrae; transverse processes of the lumbar vertebrae feel rounded; spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, and point of hip and point of buttocks prominent; withers, shoulders, and neck structures faintly discernible.
3 - Thin	Fat built up about halfway on the spinal vertebrae; transverse processes cannot be felt; slight fat cover over ribs; spinous processes and ribs easily discernible; tailhead prominent, but individual vertebrae cannot be identified visually; point of buttocks appear rounded but easily discernible; point of hip not distinguishable; withers, shoulders, and neck accentuated.
4 - Moderately Thin	Slight ridge along back; faint outline of ribs discernible; tailhead prominence depends on conformation, but fat can be felt around it; point of hip not discernible; withers, shoulders, and neck not obviously thin.
5 - Moderate	Back is flat (no crease or ridge); ribs not visually distinguishable but easily felt; fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy; withers appear rounded over spinal vertebrae; shoulders and neck blend smoothly into body.
6 - Moderate to Fleshy	May be slight crease down back; fat over ribs spongy; fat around tailhead soft; fat beginning to be deposited along the side of withers, behind shoulders, and along the sides of neck.
7 - Fleshy	May have crease down back; individual ribs can be felt, but there is noticeable fat between ribs; fat around tailhead soft; fat deposited along withers, behind shoulders, and along neck.
8 - Fat	Crease down back; difficult to feel ribs; fat around tailhead very soft; area along withers filled with fat; area behind shoulder filled with fat; noticeable thickening of neck; fat deposited along inner thighs.
9 - Extremely Fat	Obvious crease down back; patchy fat appearing over ribs; bulging fat around tailhead, along withers, behind shoulders, and along neck; fat along inner thighs may cause them to rub together; flank filled with fat.