

Body condition targets

A herd's range in body condition score (BCS) is as important as its average BCS. We need to know what proportion of cows are too thin and too fat, as these cows are likely to have reduced reproductive performance and milk production, and increased risk to their health and welfare.



Targets

At calving:

- No more than 15% of cows below BCS 4.5.
- No more than 15% of cows above BCS 5.5.

At mating:

- The decrease in average BCS of the herd since calving is no more than 0.6.
- No more than 15% of cows lose more than one BCS since calving.
- Cows maintain or gain body condition from commencement of mating. (see page 36 for benefits from achieving BCS targets)

At drying-off:

- Cows in desired condition score at calving.
- Cows maintain or gain body condition during the dry period.