

energy density than roughages by 50-60% and are fed primarily when energy demands exceed those met by the forage provided.

✓ Fats or oils (vegetable or grain-derived) have 2.25 times the amount of digestible energy per pound than grains or concentrates. They have been used successfully to increase the energy density of the horse's diet when fed at no more than 10-15% of the total ration or diet by weight. When doing so, an additional amount of vitamin E should be supplemented as well.

✓ Body condition scoring (Table 3-3 and Figure 3-1) is a useful tool to evaluate the adequacy of the nutritional program, and to monitor its success over time.

✎ Management of the broodmare should be to maintain above average body condition (6 on a scale of 1 to 10).

✎ Mares foaling in better than average body condition and maiden and barren mares at or above average body condition conceive sooner than mares in less than average body condition.

✓ Obese mares or those with body condition score greater than 8 tend to have more difficulty conceiving. Some obese mares may warrant investigation of hypothyroidism.

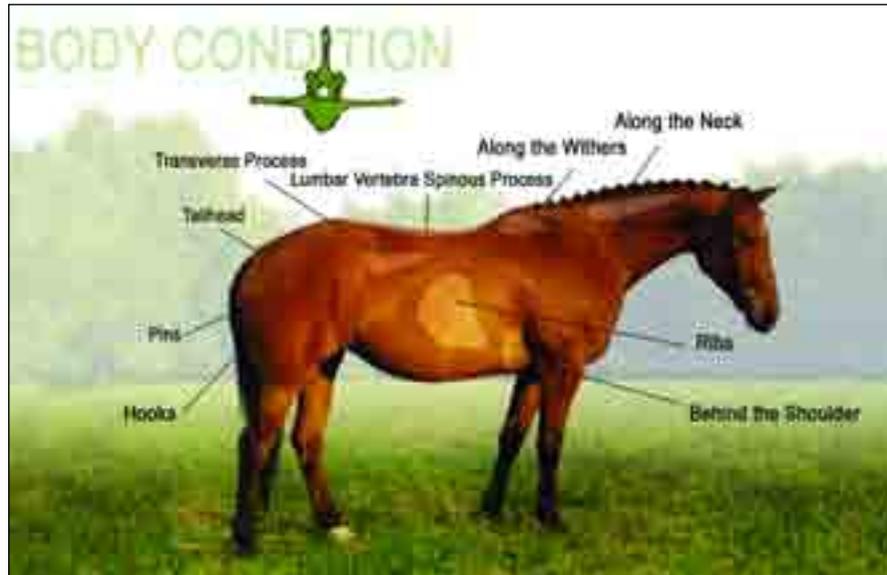


Figure 3-1 Body condition scoring system for the horse: areas of the body to evaluate.

Table 3-3
Body Condition Scoring System for the Horse: Descriptive Parameters

CONDITION SCORE	NECK		WHITHERS		LOIN		TAILHEAD, PINS & HOOKS		RIBS		SHOULDER	
1 Poor	Bone structure easily noticeable. Animal extremely emaciated, no fatty tissue can be felt.	Neck faintly discernible. Animal emaciated.	Bone structure easily noticeable.	Withers faintly discernible.	Prominent spinous processes.	Tailhead and hooks and pins project prominently.	Ribs project prominently.	Noticeable bone structure on shoulder.				
2 Very Thin			Withers faintly discernible.	Withers faintly discernible.	Slight fat covering over base of spinous processes. Transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded. Spinous processes are prominent.	Tailhead and hooks and pins are prominent.	Ribs prominent.	Shoulder faintly discernible.				
3 Thin	Neck accentuated.	Neck accentuated.	Withers accentuated.	Withers accentuated.	Fat built up about halfway on spinous processes. Transverse processes cannot be left.	Tailhead prominent, but individual vertebrae cannot be visually identified. Hook bones appear rounded, but easily discernible. Spinous processes easily discernible. Pin bones not distinguishable.	Slight fat cover over ribs. Ribs easily discernible.	Shoulder accentuated.				

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