

# Introducing DeLaval body condition scoring BCS. Daily, automatic scoring of your cows.



Managed by

DeLaval  
DelPro™  
Farm  
Manager

**The DeLaval BCS system:**

- Delivers daily, consistent and accurate scoring
- Provides individual, group and herd overview
- Helps improve cow health and milk yield
- Facilitates optimised feeding

# Why is body condition scoring important?

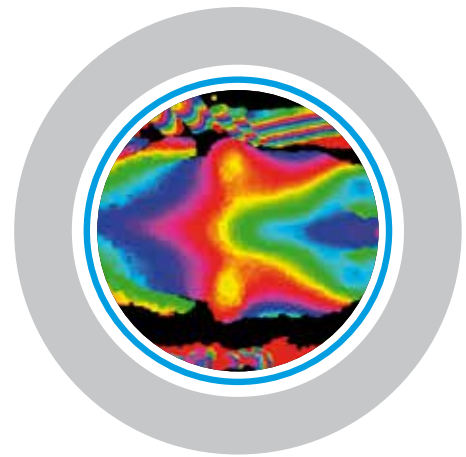
Body condition score gives a visual estimate of a cow's body fat reserves, which in turn provides useful information on her future productivity, future feed requirements and previous level of feeding.\* Therefore it needs to be done accurately and regularly during the lactation cycle. If you know the body condition score of your cows you can plan your feeding to ensure they have adequate body fat reserves, which promotes milk production, reproductive efficiency and cow longevity.

## BCS in the past

Traditionally, BCS was done by looking at a sample of your herd and scoring the cows to calculate and average BCS for your herd. To do all your herd was too time consuming so you only ever worked on the average for your herd. Working to 0.5 increments implies a lot of rounding up and down of scores.

## New way

DeLaval BCS system automates this manual process and will give you a BCS for every cow, every day. The BCS scoring system has been developed to accommodate different breeds of cows and will score cows to two decimal points.



3D view produced by the BCS camera

## The BCS system – a revolution in body condition scoring

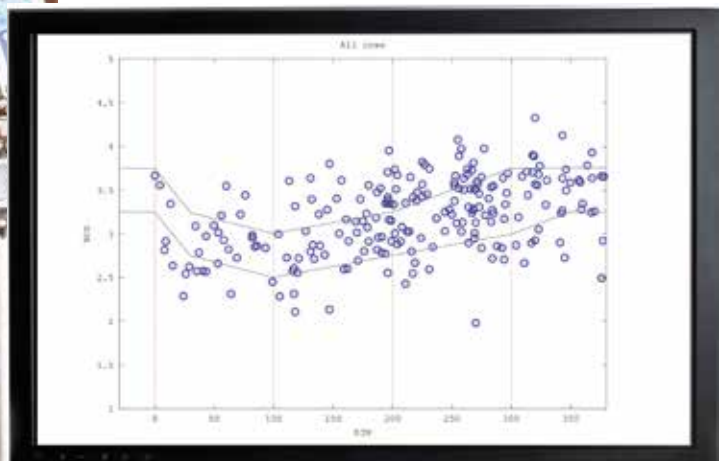
The BCS camera is mounted on a DeLaval sort gate or a DeLaval robotic milking station. It takes a 3D image of a cow's lower back as it passes under the camera. The image is then analysed with the unique DeLaval BCS software to determine the amount of fat covering the loin, rump tailhead, hooks, pins and short ribs. From this the BCS system can accurately calculate the body condition score of the cow.

## Managed by DelPro™

The cow's score is sent to DelPro Farm Manager where it is logged for viewing at anytime from your farm computer. Individual, group and herd information is presented in easy to read graph formats. DelPro Farm Manager can also be set to send a notification if a cow falls below a certain score. This makes BCS ideal for farmers who manage by exception.



\* Condition scoring made easy Kevin Macdonald and John Roche, 2004

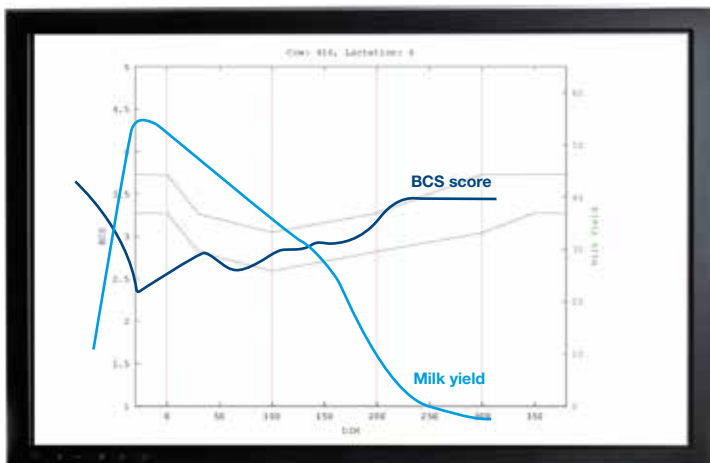


An overview of the condition of your herd can be viewed in DelPro at any time.



### 3 key points:

- Consistent accurate scoring of cows every day.
- Automating an irregular, subjective manual process
- Different scoring algorithms for different breeds of cows



Individual cow graphs enable you to see the body condition score and act on it accordingly.



BCS is a great day-to-day help.

I can quickly see if a cow is outside her optimal condition and change her feeding - something that I haven't managed to do as effectively in the past. BCS contributes to healthier, more productive cows and saves on feed costs.

**Michael Arvidsson**  
Lövänget Lantbruk, Sweden.



# The main benefits with DeLaval body condition scoring BCS

## **Precise feeding**

With regular updates of your cows' body condition scores you can plan and optimise feeding to ensure your cows have the ideal body condition for the current stage in their lactation cycle.

## **Better cow health**

Consistent and accurate scores act as an early warning system if a cow deviates from the ideal body condition score curve. Any deviations can be acted on sooner to reduce potential veterinarian and nutritional costs.

## **Improved breeding and calving**

Regular score updates can be used to ensure cows have the ideal condition at insemination and calving. The right body condition throughout the pregnancy can eliminate calving and post calving problems, while ensuring calves have an ideal start to life.

## **Increased milk production**

Keeping your cows at the ideal condition during lactation will help ensure maximum milk yield. With regular updates you can ensure they follow the ideal body condition curve.

## **More time for other tasks**

Automatic body condition scoring eliminates the need for manual scoring. This means you can use your time to carry out other important tasks on the farm.



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