BCS as a tool for nutrition requirement of ewes

Need/issue: Knowledge of nutrition requirement (ewe)

Aim: To provide a practical and applicable tool for farmers who have issues on nutrition requirement of their flock.

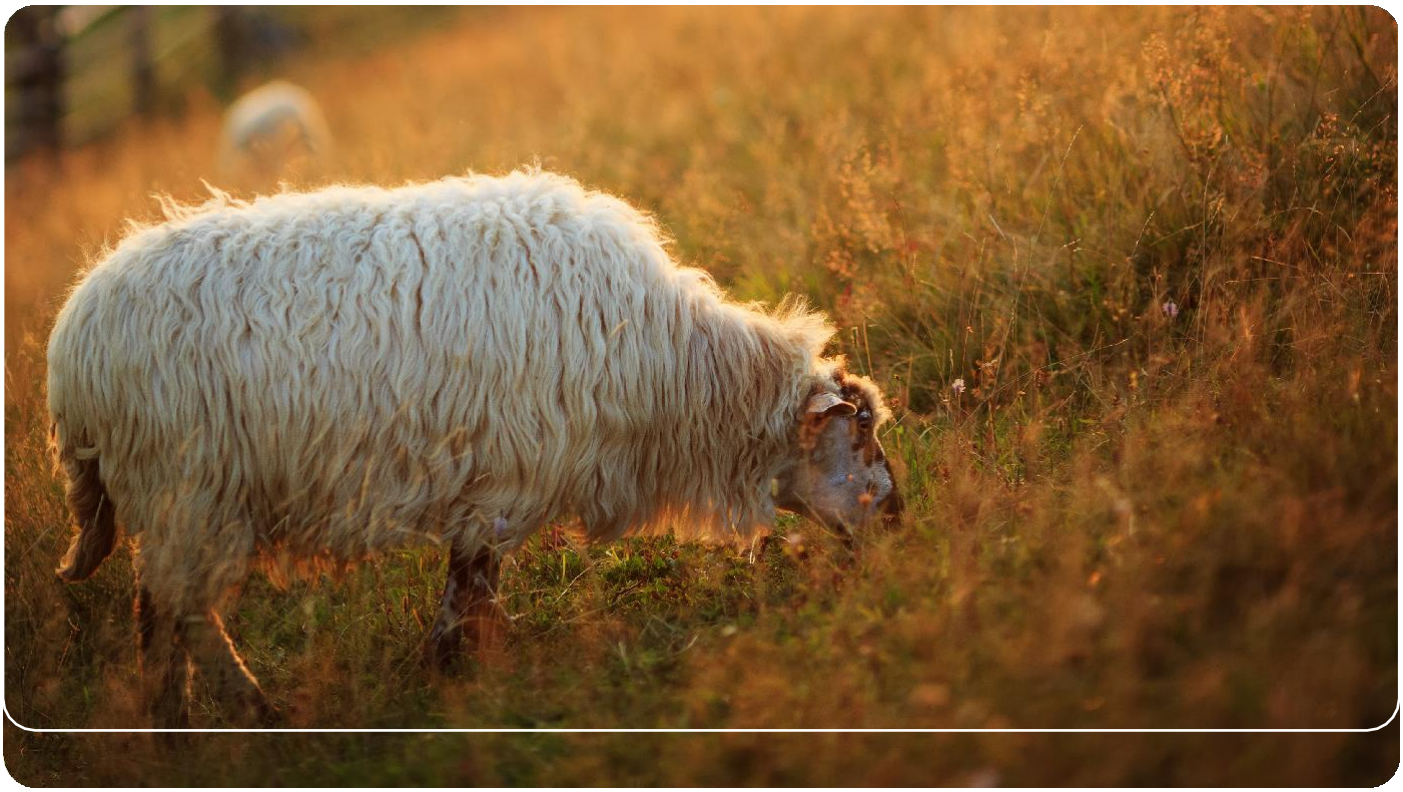
How to implement:

No equipment required

- Hand over the spine and the loin area between the last rib and the hip bones of each ewe.
- Feel for fat covering the 'spinous processes' (the part of the spine that points upwards) and the 'transverse processes' (the bony protrusions from either side of each vertebra).
- The more prominent the bone feels, the lower the body condition.
- Score them accordingly from 1-5.

Description:

- A sheep management tool that farmers can use to aid on-farm decision making and optimise animal performance.
- Provides a subjective assessment of the fat and muscle of the lumbar spine.
- Can be assessed easily by the palpation of both the spinous and transverse processes of the lumbar vertebrae
- Assessed against **a five-point scale** ranging 1 to 5 with 1 being emaciated and 5 being extremely fat.
- BCS has advantages over the assessment of nutritious status of the flock which can help to improve both your flock's nutrition requirement and reproductive parameters.



Prerequisites and/or limits:

- Wooliness of the ewe is an important variation to remember
- Sheep need to be assessed individually
- Farmers require training for BCS
- One should feel for fat/muscle covering the bone, not wool density.
- The same person should measure every ewe to provide consistency n the result
- Measure each ewe with the same hand.

BCS tool allows farmer to classify animals according to their conditions which will improve the productivity.
BSC application may increase the labour essential amount however its benefits are far beyond this labour cost.
Because animals will be under better health conditions, the vet service cost will decrease.

Country: Turkey

Dairy and meat sheep

Category of Animal: All

Topic:

	Health
X	Nutrition
	Management

Level of solution:

X	Knowledge
X	Practical

Source of information:

https://aab.copernicus.org/articles/61/221/2018/aab-61-221-2018.pdf

https://www.nzsap.org/system/files/proceedings/body-condition-scoring-sheep-intra-and-inter-observer-variability.pdf

https://beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/ewe-body-condition-scoring

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