Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**AGRI 3364 Horse Science**

**Vital Signs Exercise**

While at rest, use the horses provided to determine temperature, pulse, respiration rate, capillary refill time, and skin pliability. Observe mucous membranes for color. Examine feces and describe color and texture. Also, determine body condition score. How does the hair coat and hoof condition appear? Will each horse readily eat? Lastly, track each horse at a walk and describe whether movement is sound or demonstrates possible lameness.

Horse 1:

Horse 2:

After resting vitals have been determined, longe one horse for three minutes and record temperature, pulse, and respiration rate.

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| **TABLE 2-1 Description of Individual Condition Scores** |
| **Score** | **Description** |
| 1 Poor | Animal extremely emaciated; spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, tuber coxae, and ischii projecting 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 base of spinous processes; transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded; spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, tuber coxae, and ischii prominent; withers, shoulders, and neck structure faintly discernible |
| 3 Thin | Fat buildup about halfway on spinous processes; 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; tuber coxae appear rounded but easily discernible; tuber ischii not distinguishable; withers, shoulders, and neck accentuated |
| 4 Moderately thin | Slight ridge along back; faint outline of ribs discernible; tailhead prominence depends on conformation, fat can be felt around it; tuber coxae 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 spinous processes; shoulders and neck blend smoothly into body |
| 6 Moderately fleshy | May have 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 noticeable filling between ribs with fat; 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 rub together; flank filled with fat |
| SOURCE: Adapted from Henneke et al. (1983). |