



Rumen Fill Scoring Chart

(Target: 3 - 3.5 - Scale 1 - 5)

Rumen Fill Scoring	
Score	Description
1	 <p>The paralumbar fossa looks very empty; the paralumbar fossa cavitates more than a hand's width behind the last rib and a hand's width inside under the transverse processes. The fossa looks like a rectangle when observed from the left side of the cow. Cows typically will have eaten little or not at all because of illness.</p>
2	 <p>The paralumbar fossa cavitates a hand's width behind the last rib and, to a lesser extent, inside under the transverse processes. When the observer stands at the left side of the cow, this area looks a triangle. This condition is often observed in normal cows in the first week's post-partum. When rumen fill score does not increase after this period, this is an indication of poor feed intake.</p>
3	 <p>The paralumbar fossa cavitates less than a hand's width behind the last rib and falls about a hand's width vertically downwards from the transverse processes and then bulges out. This is the desired rumen fill score for lactating cows with adequate dry matter intake.</p>
4	 <p>The paralumbar fossa skin is covering the area behind the last rib and arches immediately outside below the transverse processes due to an extended rumen. Dry cows and cows in late lactation should show this score.</p>
5	 <p>The rumen is quite distended and nearly obliterates the fossa; the last rib and the transverse processes are not visible This is a score for dry cows</p>