Cow body condition score (BCS) and Fertility Performance in Dairy Herds

First Name:	**Last Name:**
Email:	**Veterinary Practice:**
Postcode:	**Date:**

Please circle <u>one</u> answer only e.g.

Body condition scoring is a measure of:
- Cow bodyweight
- Mineral reserves
- Energy reserves
- Milk production potential

As a minimum, BCS should be measured at:
- Calving and 60 days post-calving
- 60 days post calving
- Whenever you remember
- Calving, 60 days later, 100 days before dry off, at drying off

On a 1-5 system BCS at calving should be:
- >4
- 3
- 2.5 to 3
- <3

Ideally during the dry period cows should:
- Maintain BCS
- Lose 0.5 BCS
- Gain 0.5 BCS
- BCS change in the dry period is not important

After calving cows should:
- Not lose BCS
- Lose <0.5 of a BCS
- Lose >0.5 of a BCS
- Maintain a BCS >3

Cows with BCS ≥4 have:
- Shorter calving to first service intervals
- Reduced risk of ketosis
- Less fat mobilisation
- Increased calving to first observed oestrus interval

On average, compared to a cow with a BCS of 3.0, a cow with a BCS of 3.5 will:
- Lose more condition between calving and peak lactation
- Lose BCS more slowly after calving
- Gain more condition after calving
- Lose less condition after calving

In early lactation increasing the amount of high energy density feed:

- Improves fertility
- Improves rumen health
- Prevents BCS loss
- Has little to no impact on BCS loss after calving

Losing BCS during the dry period:

- Reduces the risk of difficult calving
- Increases the risk of culling
- Improves milk yield
- Increase BCS loss after calving

If silage is the main supplementary food fed to dry cows:

- BCS score will increase by 0.5 in 60 days
- BCS score will increase by 0.5 in 30 days
- BCS score will increase by 1 in 60 days
- BCS score will increase by 1 in 30 days