Body Condition: Are they heavy or thin?

**Heavy:**
- **WHY?** They put weight on their back and not as milk for their calf. They shouldn't be over a BSC of 6 at weaning.

**Thin:**
- **WHY?** They put everything into milk production for their calf. Age - first calf heifers and older cows tend to pull off a lot of weight. Additional causes: injury or illness.

Udder
- How does her udder look? Ligaments - hanging low. Teat length and size - don’t want too long or too large.

Feet and Legs
- How are her feet and legs holding up? Mobility issues will affect feed intake.

What to look for:

Looking at the Cow:

- **Body Condition:** Are they heavy or thin?
  - **Heavy:** WHY? They put weight on their back and not as milk for their calf. They shouldn't be over a BSC of 6 at weaning.
  - **Thin:** WHY? They put everything into milk production for their calf. Age - first calf heifers and older cows tend to pull off a lot of weight. Additional causes: injury or illness.

- **Udder**
  - How does her udder look? Ligaments – hanging low. Teat length and size – don’t want too long or too large.

- **Feet and Legs**
  - How are her feet and legs holding up? Mobility issues will affect feed intake.

Looking at the Calf:

- **Size and Weight**
  - How does the calf compare in size and weight of the peers in its age group? Keep in mind age of the dam as well as gender of the calf.

- **Structure**
  - Is the calf structurally correct? Does it stand solid of all four legs? Straight through the spine?

Questions?
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