

# Mud and Manure Scores for Cattle

**1** = no tag, clean hide (0)

**2** = small lumps of mud on hide in limited areas of the legs and underbelly (5.7)

**3** = small and large lumps of mud in large areas of the legs, side and underbelly (12.8)

**4** = small and large lumps of mud in even larger areas along the hindquarter, stomach and front shoulder (NA)

**5** = lumps of manure on hide continuously on the underbelly and side of the animal from front to rear (23.2)

( ) is pounds of mud on animal Ramsey & Allen, 1975



**Mud and Manure Score 1**



**Mud and Manure Score 2**



**Mud and Manure Score 3**



**Mud and Manure Score 4**



**Mud and Manure Score 5**

BED: 2016

# Scoring and Managing Pens

Mud Depth, 21-39° F	Potential Loss of Gain
0 = No Mud	0%
1 = Dewclaw Deep	7%
2 = Shin Deep	14%
3 = Below Hock	21%
4 = Hock Deep	28%
5 = Belly Deep	35%

Adapted from Beef Feeder, University of Nebraska, August 1991



Pen Score 0

## Steps to Manage Mud and Manure

- ✓ Divert clean water
- ✓ Provide adequate lot drainage
- ✓ Consider well-designed mounds
- ✓ Maintain clean & bedded pens
- ✓ Have rain and snow plans
- ✓ Increase animal space
- ✓ Provide bedding



Pen Score 4

## Minimum Square Feet per Head

- ✓ Open earthen lot with windbreak or with shed – 150
- ✓ Open concrete lot – 60
- ✓ Open concrete lot with shed – 70
- ✓ Deep-bedded confinement – 40
- ✓ Slatted floor confinement - 23

Beef Feedlot Systems Manual, PM 1867, Revised January 2015

## Feeder and Waterer Space

- ✓ Once-a-day feeding – 22-26 in/animal
- ✓ Twice-a-day feeding – 11-13 in/animal
- ✓ Animals/ft of accessible tank perimeter – 16
- ✓ Gal/hd/day –
  - Hot weather – 15-22
  - Cold weather – 8-11

Beef Housing and Equipment Handbook, Fourth Edition 1987

**Provide 1 lb of bedding/head/day for every inch of mud**

Mader, 2011