

## Annual Forages for Grazing Systems Practice Evaluation Worksheet

All items listed below must be collected each year for each instance of ICPS 810 – Annual Forages for Grazing Systems to fulfill the interim practice annual reporting requirements. Data will need to be gathered before and after grazing (harvest). Contact a Grazing or Rangeland Management Specialist for assistance with completing this assessment. When completed, submit this form to the MN NRCS State Grazing Lands Specialist.

Producer name: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Tract #: \_\_\_\_\_ Field #: \_\_\_\_\_ Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

1) Livestock operation info:

a. Type of livestock: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Class: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Number of Head: \_\_\_\_\_

d. Livestock Forage Balance worksheet included:      Yes              No

2)  A seeding plan has been developed with the following information. See attached seeding plan for details.

Fill in the following table with the appropriate annual forage information for each field IF alternative seed planning tools were not used.

Field #	Acres	Species	Seeding rate (lbs/ac)*	Legume Inoculants (If Applicable)

\*Seeding rates will be calculated based on bulk rate when pure live seed (PLS) is calculated to be above 80%. If PLS is below 80%, then calculate seeding rate on a pure live seed basis.

To figure Pure Live Seed (PLS) rates, multiply the percent purity by the percent germination. Divide the seeding rate by the percent PLS to find the bulk seed needed per acre.

For example: 98% purity X 60% germination = 0.588% PLS 10 lbs/acre X 0.588% PLS = 17 lbs/acre.



## Visual Assessment Guides

Visual assessments may be used to calculate Degree of Utilization, Percent Cover, Percent Litter, Percent Bare Soil, and Percent Stand Composition. See graphs below for each assessment. The number in the header corresponds to the assessment on the worksheet above.

To gather data, walk through annual forage planting post-grazing. Assess each item within the field. Pick Class percent that most closely matches the site. Alternative numbers may be picked as well. For example, 35% could be picked for Estimated Grazing Utilization if the stand is in between Class 1 and 2.

<b>3b. Estimated Grazing Utilization</b>				
Class 1. Very light grazing. Less than 50% of plant height removed.	Class 2. Plants topped. 50 to 65% of the height of plant height removed.	Class 3. Evenly grazed throughout. 65 to 80% of the plant height removed.	Class 4. Majority of species completely utilized. Greater than 80% of the height removed.	Class 5. Pasture is overgrazed throughout. Plants completely utilized.
<b>Utilization:</b> 25%	50%	65%	80%	90%

<b>4a and 4d. Percent Plant Cover of Seeded Species</b>				
Class 1. Less than 40% Live Plant Cover of planted species.	Class 2. 40-65% Live Plant Cover of planted species.	Class 3. 66-80% Live Plant Cover of planted species.	Class 4. 81-95% Live Plant Cover of planted species.	Class 5. Greater than 95% Live Plant Cover of planted species.
<b>% Plant Cover:</b> 20%	50%	70%	85%	100%

Calculate percent cover for each individual species as well as total plant cover. Cover of individual plant species can be entered into the chart for 4d.

<b>4b. Percent Litter</b>				
Class 1. Soil Cover less than 20%	Class 2. Soil cover 21-40%.	Class 3. Soil cover 41-60%	Class 4. Soil cover 61-80%	Class 5. Soil cover greater than 80%
<b>% Litter:</b> 10%	30%	50%	70%	90%

<b>4c. Percent Bare Ground</b>				
Class 1. Greater than 90% Bare Ground	Class 2. 65-90% Bare Ground.	Class 3. 35-65% Bare Ground	Class 4. 5-35% Bare Ground	Class 5. Less than 5% Bare Ground
<b>% Bare Ground:</b> 95%	75%	50%	25%	0%

\*Visual Assessment Guides adapted from the Pasture Condition Scoresheet and "Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements." Interagency Technical Reference. 1996.

5) Photo documentation included from before and after grazing.

Before grazing picture(s).



After grazing picture.

