

PASTURE CONDITION SCORE TRANSECT DATA

Species Name	Desirable	Intermediate	Undesirable	Legume	Bare Ground	Litter
Total						

To properly document percent desirable plant, plant diversity, and percent legume a transect will be recorded using the step-point method. The step-point method involves making observations along a transect line at specified intervals. Place a pin at the toe of the boot and vertically lower the pin until it either intersects an herbaceous plant or the ground for the specified number of hits. Intervals should be a minimum of 5 paces and a minimum of 100 hits shall be recorded. To lengthen the transect, increase the distance between hits (10 paces, 20 paces, etc). Record the hits by dot count tally.

Desirable species are readily consumed, persistent, and provides high tonnage and quality for a significant part of the growing season. Big bluestem, Little bluestem, Indiangrass, Switchgrass, Eastern gamagrass, common bermuda , bahiagrass, dallisgrass, and all hybrid bermuda grasses are considered desirable species.

Intermediate species are those which, while eaten, provide low tonnage or lose quality fast, and often have a short-lived grazing use period. Carpetgrass, crabgrass, and other annuals are considered intermediate species.

Undesirable species, such as woody invaders, noxious weeds, and toxic plants are those that typically are not eaten by most livestock or cause undesirable side effects. Cogongrass is considered an undesirable species.