United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Pasture Condition Score (PCS)

Plant Cover Element

Attach Photos

General Information

Client: _____ Farm #: _____

Field Office: _____ Tract #: _____

County: _____ Field # and acreage: _____

	Pasture Unit Description									
Plant cover[1/] [2/] Percent live, leafy canopy cover of desirables and intermediates is: **1** <50 **2** 50-70 **3** 70-90 **4** 90-95 **5** 95-100 Percent live basal area cover of desirables and intermediates is: <15 15-25 25-35 35-50 >50										

Indicator	1	2	Score 3	4	5
Plant cover (Live stems and green leaf cover of all desirable and intermediate species.)	Canopy: < 50% Basal area: < 15% Photosynthetic area very low. Very little plant cover to slow or stop runoff.	Canopy: 50–70% Basal area: 15–25% Photosynthetic area low. Vegetal retardance to runoff low.	Canopy: 70–90% Basal area: 25–35% Most forages grazed close, little leaf area to intercept sun-light. Moderate vegetal retardance.	Canopy: 90–95% Basal area: 35–50% Spot grazed low and high so some loss of photo-synthetic potential. Vegetal retardance still high.	Canopy: 95–100% Basal area: >50% Forages maintained in leafy condition for best photosynthetic activity. Very thick stand, slow or no runoff flows.