



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Pasture Condition Score (PCS)
Plant Residue Element Attach Photos

General Information	
Client: _____	Farm #: _____
Field Office: _____	Tract #: _____
County: _____	Field # and acreage: _____

	Pasture Unit Description									
Plant residue^{1/} Ground cover, standing dead forage, or thatch is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> 1 2 3 4 5 </div> (Read criteria and select appropriate number)										

Indicator	----- 1	----- 2	-----Score----- 3	----- 4	----- 5
Plant residue (Rate ground cover and standing dead forage separately and average score.)	Ground cover: No identifiable residue present on soil surface. Or, heavy thatch evident (> 1 inch). Standing dead forage: >25% of air dry weight.	Ground cover: 1–10% covered with dead leaves or stems. Or, thatch 0.5 inch to 1 inch thick. Standing dead forage: 15–25% of air dry weight.	Ground cover: 10–20% covered with dead residue. Or, slight thatch buildup but < 0.5 inch. Standing dead forage: 5–15% of air dry weight.	Ground cover: 20–30% covered with dead residue. No thatch present. Standing dead forage: some, but < 5% of air dry weight.	Ground cover: 30–70% covered with dead residue, but no thatch buildup. Standing dead forage: none available to grazing animal.