



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Pasture Condition Score (PCS)

Soil Compaction Element

Attach Photos

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

	Pasture Unit Description									
Soil compaction Degree of soil compaction 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 -----
Soil compaction	Infiltration capacity and surface runoff severely affected by heavy compaction. Excessive livestock traffic killing plants over wide areas. Very hard to push probe into soil without damaging the probe.	Infiltration capacity lowered and surface runoff increased due to large areas of bare ground and dense compaction layer at surface. Livestock trails common throughout. Off-trail hoof prints common. Hard to push probe past compacted layers.	Infiltration capacity lowered and surface runoff increased due to plant cover loss and soil compaction by livestock hooves. Soil resistant to soil probe entry at one or more depths within plow depth.	Infiltration capacity lowered and surface runoff increased due to reduced vegetal cover/retardance. Probe enters soil easily except at rocks. Scattered signs of livestock trails and hoof prints, confined to lanes or small, wet areas.	Infiltration capacity and surface runoff are equal to that expected for an ungrazed meadow; not affected by livestock traffic.