

E528Q – Use of body condition scoring for livestock on a monthly basis to keep track of herd health

This worksheet is intended to help practitioners in maintaining adequate records for the purposes of the CSP enhancement. This document is not required to be filled out if other adequate records are available.

Annual Enhancement Checklist

(complete once per year, unless no management changes needed)

Grazing Plan: A written plan of how the forage available will be managed to meet the needs of the grazing animals:

Grazing Objectives:

- Maintain or improve plant health and vigor
- Control invasive species
- Maintain or improve forage quantity and quality
- Improve grazing distribution
- Provide or improve nesting cover for grassland nesting birds
- Reduce wildfire hazard
- Change species composition
- Remove excessive litter/duff/residue
- Other: _____

Resource Inventory: Forage inventory (can use SD Grazing Tool SD-CPA-39 Forage Inventory), maps, and other needed items.

Contingency Planning: (attach additional pages if needed). If not applicable, just write NA.

What will I do in the case of drought: _____

What will I do in the case of unplanned Fire: _____

What will I do in the case of Flood: _____

What will I do in the case of _____ (other disaster): _____

Monitoring Plan for Body Condition Scoring

Animal Type	Month/Stage of Production	# of Animal Type	# of Animals needed to be Monitored (1 out of 5* or 1 out of 10*)	Ideal Body Condition Score
<i>Cattle</i>	<i>May / Calving</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>5</i>

*1 out of 5 animals for herds less than 100 animals, or 1 out of every 10 animals for herds greater than 100.

SDSU Suggested Times for Body Condition Scoring: (enter month(s) when this occurs on your operation)

Calving _____

Breeding _____

2 months prior to weaning _____

Weaning _____

Late Gestation (90 days prior to calving) _____

Circle months when animals will be monitored: Include the months from above, as well as any months when grazing will occur

January	February	March	April	May	June
July	August	September	October	November	December

Beef BCS Recommendations (from South Dakota State University Extension)

Stage of Production	Ideal BCS for:		
	Mature Cow	Heifer	Bull
Calving	5	6	-
Breeding Season	5	6	6

Additional Resources:

Basics of Body Condition Scoring: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/basics-body-condition-scoring-bcs>

Influence of Body Condition on Reproductive Performance of Beef Cows:
<https://extension.sdstate.edu/influence-body-condition-reproductive-performance-beef-cows>

Monthly Monitoring Record

Herd Name/Number: _____ (Attach additional sheets for each herd if needed)

Date of Monitoring	Pasture	# in Herd	Animal Type	Stage of Production	# of animals monitored	Average Score	Ideal Score	Additional Notes (if needed)
5/21/2020	Bob's Section	100	Cow	Lactating Cows	15	5	5	

Management actions taken when BCS is below ideal score:

Date	Management Actions taken (if any)

Photo(s) (photos can be attached or emailed – talk with your local NRCS office to see what they would prefer).

Cooperator Signature: _____

BEEF

Year of Monitoring: 20 _____

Optional sheet for recording individual animal information:

Herd Name _____ Animal Type _____

Date of Monitoring	Pasture	Tag # (optional)	Score	Additional Notes (if needed)
5/21/2020	Bob's Section	283	6	