

**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:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain or improve plant health and vigor                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Control invasive species             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain or improve forage quantity and quality              | <input type="checkbox"/> Improve grazing distribution         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide or improve nesting cover for grassland nesting birds | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce wildfire hazard               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change species composition                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Remove excessive litter/duff/residue |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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What will I do in the case of unplanned Fire: \_\_\_\_\_

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What will I do in the case of Flood: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**Monitoring Plan for Body Condition Scoring**

<b>Animal Type</b>	<b>Month/Stage of Production</b>	<b># of Animal Type</b>	<b># of Animals needed to be Monitored</b> (1 out of 5* or 1 out of 10*)	<b>Ideal Body Condition Score</b>
<i>Sheep</i>	<i>April / Lambing</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 of Sheep or Goats:** (enter month(s) when this occurs on your operation)

**Pre-breeding** (1 month to 2 weeks before) \_\_\_\_\_

**Mid-gestation** (60 days prior to lambing) \_\_\_\_\_

**Lambing/kidding** \_\_\_\_\_

**Weaning** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Sheep BCS Recommendations (from South Dakota State University Extension)**

<b>Stage of Production</b>	<b>Ideal BCS for:</b>	
	<b>Mature Ewe Expecting</b>	
	<b>Singles</b>	<b>Twins</b>
Breeding	3-4	3-4
Mid-Gestation	2.5-4	2.5-4
Lambing	3-3.5	3.5-4
Weaning	2+	2+

**Pre-breeding:** Recommended BCS for Bucks = 3.5

**Additional Resources:**

**Sheep:** Body Condition Scoring of Sheep: <https://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/sites/agscid7/files/ec1433.pdf>

**Goats:** Body Condition Scores in Goats: [http://www.luresext.edu/sites/default/files/BCS\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.luresext.edu/sites/default/files/BCS_factsheet.pdf)

## 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	Sheep	Lambing	15	3	3.5	

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

## SHEEP

Year of Monitoring: 20\_\_\_\_

Optional sheet for recording individual animal information:

**Herd Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Animal Type** \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]