

Pasture Productivity Measurements

Tool/Measurement	Criteria								Comments
	Accuracy	Affordability	Flexibility	Complementary	Complexity	Availability	Benefit	Usability	
Volume measurements									
Clipping/Drying/Weighing	8	3	8		4	7	7	3	Time consuming
Rising Plate Meter (Electronic)	7	3	7		7	3	7	7	Costly, needs calibration
Falling Plate Meter	6	7	6		8	8	5	5	Needs improved accuracy
Grazing Stick	6	8	5	x	8	8	7	5	Needs experience
Dot method (Viz Obstruction)	6	8	6	x	8	8	7	6	Needs validation
Sward Capacitance Meter	5	2	4		4	4	5	4	Environmentally sensitive
Eyeball	6 see comments	1	7		5	8	5	5	Needs significant experience
Pasture Condition Score Sheet	7 see comments	1	7	x	7	8	7	5	Needs significant experience
Optical Crop Sensor	NA								Not work best in mixed stands
Remote/Digital Sensing	NA								Not ready for paddock scale

Goal: Select a subset of tools that provide meaningful information for graziers to make timely fact-based decisions about changes in management.

 = Highest scoring method for that criteria

 = Practical set of measurements to approximate forage production

Explanation of Criteria:

- Accuracy Is the tool highly correlated to the control (gold standard) that allows it to be used as a meaningful substitute?
- Affordability Is the cost of the tool justified based on the information it provides? \$/AU
- Flexibility Is the tool accurate across varying pasture, management and weather conditions?
- Complementary Does the tool provide new or value-added information compared to other tools?
- Complexity Is the tool tough to learn to use and does it require extensive calculation and interpretation?
- Usability Can the tool be used quickly with minimal error?
- Benefit Does use of tool result in economic benefit?

1=poor to 9=good scale will be used for this summary table. Fact sheets, publications and a demonstration video will include details behind the scores above.