OUR PLAN

Visual Soil Assessment Score Card - Soil Indicators

Visual indicators for assessing soil quality under hill country land uses

Date: _____   Land use: _____

Site location: _____

Landform:
- ☐ Ridge
- ☐ Shoulder
- ☐ Track
- ☐ Back slope
- ☐ Lower slope
- ☐ Upper slope
- ☐ Mid slope
- ☐ _____ ☐ Other

Soil type: Aspect: Slope angle:

Textural qualifier: ☐ Sandy ☐ Loamy ☐ Clayey

Moisture condition: ☐ Dry ☐ Slightly moist ☐ Moist ☐ Wet

Seasonal weather conditions: ☐ Dry ☐ Wet ☐ Cold ☐ Warm ☐ Average

Visual Indicator of Soil Quality (see soil resources on www.beeflambnz.com for details)	Visual Score (VS) 0 = Poor condition 1 = Moderate condition 2 = Good condition	Weighting	VS Ranking
Degree of soil erosion		x 3	
Surface relief		x 1	
Topsoil depth		x 2	
Organic Matter (Humus)		x 2	
Soil structure and consistence		x 3	
Soil porosity		x 3	
Soil colour		x 2	
Number and colour of mottles		x 2	
Earthworm counts		x 2	
RANKING SCORE (Sum of VS rankings)			

Soil Quality Asssessment	Ranking Score
Poor	< 10
Moderate	10 – 25
Good	> 25

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Visual Indicator of Soil Quality	Visual Score (VS) 0 = Poor condition 1 = Moderate condition 2 = Good condition	Weighting	VS Ranking
Pasture composistion		x 3	
Pasture growth and regrowth		x 3	
Pasture utilisation*		x 1	
Area of bare ground		x 3	
Drought stress		x 2	
Stock carrying capacity and fertiliser use*		x 2	
RANKING SCORE (Sum of VS rankings)			

*Perceived

Plant Quality Asssessment	Ranking Score
Poor	< 10
Moderate	10 – 25
Good	> 25

Overall Quality Asssessment		Do the soil and plant indicators give a different soil quality assessment? If so, why?
Soil indicators	Plant indicators	

Notes:

Earthworm Abundance Survey table

LMU	Number of dung worms	Number of topsoil worms	Number of deep burrowing worms	Notes	Date

Risk Assessment – Soil Health

Risk to soil health	Risks on your farm	Overall risk	Date

Likelihood	Consequence		
	Slight	Serious	Major
Low	Low	Low	Medium
Medium	Low	Medium	High
High	Medium	High	High