
Residual Stubble Height

This method simply measures the height of grass or sedge leaves that remain after grazing. Measurements should be recorded in inches of leaf stubble. Select a line to walk across the study area by choosing a distinctive landmark in the distance. Walk toward this landmark. At each pace (every 2 steps) measure the stubble height of the key species plant (or any plant species) located nearest your toe.

Place the ruler in the center of the bunchgrass or turf circle, rather than along one side. Stubble height should be measured carefully to limit the amount of variability among measurements made by different people. The ruler should rest firmly at the base of the current year's growth. When sod-forming grasses or sedges are the key species, use a circle of turf 2 inches in diameter as one plant. Measure 25 to 50 plants per study area and record the stubble height on the data sheet. Next, sum the inches of stubble height in Columns A and B and divide by the total number of plants sampled to obtain the average stubble height.