



Faecal Consistency Scoring Chart

(Target: 3 - Scale 1 - 5)

Faecal Consistency Scoring	
Score	Description
1 	The faeces are watery thin and not truly recognisable as faeces Cows with acute infectious disease (e.g., with fever or toxæmia) may show this score
2 	Faeces are custard-like; faecal structure can be recognised At dropping they splash wide out on the floor This condition may be noticed from either lush spring pasture or ration imbalance
3 	Faeces are thicker, custard-like They make a light plopping sound when being dropped on the floor They make a well-circumscribed pad which spreads and has the thickness of about 2 cm Sucking is not felt when the boot is retracted from the pad and a boot sole profile is not visible This is the ideal condition and reflects a well digested ration
4 	Stiff faeces can be observed They make a heavy plopping sound when being dropped They make a well circumscribed pad which piles in rings and spreads out very little Sucking is felt after withdrawal of the boot; a boot sole profile is left on the pad This condition reflects an imbalance of the ration for lactating cows should provoke a revision of that ration For dry cows and heifers this score is acceptable
5 	Stiff faeces in balls, looking like horse faeces A boot sole profile is left This condition is often observed in dry cows, dairy heifers and beef cattle It points to a ration imbalance which needs to be corrected

Resource: Atkinson, O. (2009). Guide to the rumen health visit. In practice, 31(7), 314-325.