



FACT SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

July 2012

Emergency Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program Acres for 2012

Overview

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP establish long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

The Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, authorized CRP. The program is also governed by regulations published in 7 CFR Part 1410. The program is implemented by FSA on behalf of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

Haying and Grazing

Haying and grazing of CRP acreage is authorized under certain conditions to improve the quality and performance of the CRP cover or to provide emergency relief to livestock producers due to certain natural disasters. There are two types of haying and grazing authorization: managed and emergency.

Primary Nesting Season

Generally, CRP acreage may not be hayed or grazed during the Primary Nesting Season for certain wildlife established by state FSA committees in consultation with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Technical Committee.

Emergency Haying and Grazing

Emergency haying and grazing of CRP acreage may be authorized to provide relief to livestock producers in areas affected by a severe drought or similar natural disaster.

Emergency authorization is provided by either a national FSA office authorization or by a state FSA committee determination utilizing the U.S. Drought Monitor.

National FSA Authorization

County eligibility is based on a county FSA committee request documenting a 40 percent or greater loss in normal hay and pasture production and either:

- for drought conditions, precipitation levels at an average of 40 percent or greater loss of normal precipitation for the 4 most recent months plus the days in the current month before the date of request;

or

- for excessive moisture conditions, precipitation levels at an average of 140 percent or greater increase in normal precipitation during the 4 most recent consecutive months plus the days in the current month before the date of request.

Emergency haying or grazing is limited to the acreage physically located within the boundary of the eligible county or portion of a county. Under this authority, acreage will only be authorized for a specified time and may end earlier than announced if conditions improve.

State FSA Committee Determination

For 2012, a county is authorized for emergency haying and grazing outside the Primary Nesting Season if the county is designated as level "D0-Abnormally Dry", as of July 19, 2012 or later, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The U.S. Drought Monitor is available online at: <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>

Under this special determination, emergency **haying** is authorized to August 31, 2012. Emergency **grazing** is authorized until September 30, 2012.

FACT SHEET

Emergency Haying and Grazing

July 2012

Eligible Acreage

Acreage eligible for managed or emergency haying and grazing includes acreage devoted to the following practices: CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP10, CP18B, CP18C and CP38 in certain States.

Ineligible Acreage

Acreage ineligible for managed or emergency haying and grazing includes acreage devoted to

- Useful life easements;
- Land within 120 feet of a stream or other permanent water body;
- The following practices: CP3, CP3A, CP5A, CP8A, CP9, CP11, CP12, CP15A, CP15B, CP17A, CP21, CP22, CP23, CP24, CP25, CP27, CP28, CP29, CP30, CP31, CP32, CP33, CP35A-I, CP36, CP37, CP38 in certain States, CP39, CP40, CP41 and CP42.

Modified Conservation Plan

Before CRP acreage is declared eligible for haying or grazing, a modified conservation plan developed by NRCS or a technical service provider must be obtained. The modified conservation plan must be site specific, include the authorized duration, and reflect local wildlife needs and concerns. The primary purpose must be to maintain vegetative cover, minimize soil erosion, and protect water quality and wildlife habitat quality.

File Request Before Starting

CRP participants requesting emergency or managed haying and grazing must file a request with their county FSA office indicating the acreage to be hayed or grazed before the activity begins.

Required Payment Reduction

The CRP-authorizing legislation requires a payment reduction to be assessed. Generally, CRP participants are assessed a haying or grazing payment reduction of 25 percent. For 2012 only, the 25 percent haying and grazing payment reduction has been reduced to 10 percent.

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Conservation Reserve Program

Terms and Conditions for Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP Acreage

I/We hereby request authority for emergency haying or grazing of approved cover on CRP acreage.

1. I/We agree to: (1) obtain a modified conservation plan to include haying, as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or Technical Service Provider (TSP); (2) re-establishing, at my/our own expense, any cover destroyed or damaged as a result of participating under this authority, regardless of recommendations or determinations made the TSP; (3) remove all hay or livestock from CRP acreage before the earlier of October 1, or 10 calendar days from the date notified by Farm Service Agency (FSA) at the local county office that emergency haying or grazing authorization has ended; (4) limit haying of CRP acreage to one cutting; (5) **not** hay and graze the same acreage (6) not hay or graze within 120 feet of a stream or other permanent water body (7) report to County office according to the following;
 - under Managed or Emergency Haying producers must report the number of acres **harvested/hayed** by September 11, 2012.
 - managed or Emergency **grazing** of CRP acres must be reported within 5 days after the livestock have been removed or No Later Than October 5, 2012.

Check the payment reduction option applicable to this contract:

_____ The payment reduction has been paid in advance.

_____ The FY _____ annual rental payment, scheduled to be made after October 1, will be reduced by the number of acres actually hayed or grazed, times **10 percent** of the CRP annual per acre payment rate.

I/We agree to leave at least **50 percent** of each field or contiguous fields unhayed, or leave at least 25 percent of each field or contiguous fields ungrazed for wildlife, or graze all of the CRP acreage at no more than 75 percent of the stocking rate determined by the TSP. If acreage hayed or grazed is more or less than originally intended, I/We will notify FSA at the local county office so the CRP annual rental payment can be adjusted accordingly.

The CRP contract is subject to termination or other penalties as may be authorized by the CRP contract and regulations should there be any violation of this haying or grazing authority of CRP acreage.

If the payment reduction has not been paid in advance, all signatories on CRP-1 shall sign these conditions before haying or grazing begins.

CRP-1 Contract Number: _____

Farm Number: _____

Tract Number: _____

Field Number: _____

Participant's Signatures/Dates:

GRAZING PLAN

For 2012 Emergency Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grazing Authority
Through September 30, 2012

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - South Dakota

Name: _____ 0 Date: 8/2/2012

Contract #: _____ 0 Tract #: _____ 0 Field(s): _____

2012 Emergency CRP Grazing Provisions:

-Grazing is authorized on: CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP8A, CP10, CP18B, CP18C, CP23/23A, CP25, CP27, CP28, CP37, CP38E, and CP41

-Grazing is not authorized after September 30, 2012 for eligible acres.

-See the **Inventory** sheet for field by field carrying capacities and Total AUM's available

-Livestock grazing will be deferred when needed to maintain the stand.

-Grazing will be limited to the available forage, and the minimum stubble height for key forage species as outlined below for the specified grazing option: (Select one)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> | Exclude 25% of field or contiguous fields from grazing. Full grazing on remainder |
| <input type="radio"/> | Graze entire field at 75% of NRCS recommended stocking rate. |

Initial Carrying Capacity Guidelines:

From Inventory: 0.0

Total Animal Unit Month's of
Grazing Available

Key Forage Species:

Intermediate wheatgrass

Minimum Heights(*) for Terminating Grazing

Key Forage Species	Minimum stubble height for grazing whole field at 75% of NRCS recommended stocking rate (inches)	Minimum stubble height for grazing part of a field at 100% of NRCS recommended stocking rate (inches)
Crested wheatgrass	6	3
Intermediate wheatgrass	8	4
Smooth bromegrass	8	4
Reed canarygrass	8	4
Tall wheatgrass	8	4
Indiangrass	12	6
Big & sand bluestem	12	6
Switchgrass	16	8
Western wheatgrass	8	4
Native cool season mixture	8	4
Native warm season mixture	14	6

(*) Height is average height when leaves are lifted in a vertical position

I (we) concur in the grazing provisions as outlined above. I (we) understand that, all requirements are to be followed to meet the 2012 _____ County Emergency CRP grazing provisions.

COOPERATOR (Producer) _____ Date: _____

NRCS representative _____ Date: _____

FSA County Committee _____ Date: _____

HAYING PLAN

For 2012 Emergency Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Haying Authority
August 2 through August 31, 2012

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - South Dakota

Name: _____ Date: _____

Contract No. _____ Tract No. _____

Fields: _____

2012 Emergency CRP Haying Provisions:

- Haying is allowed on CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP8A, CP10, CP18B, CP18C, CP23/23A, CP25, CP27, CP28, CP37, CP38E, AND CP41
- Haying is not authorized after August 31, 2012.
- CRP haying shall be limited to one cutting.
- At least 50 percent of each field or contiguous fields must be left unhayed for wildlife.
- Uncut portions must be left in a contiguous block where possible.
- The same acreage shall not be both hayed and grazed.
- All hay must be removed from the CRP fields by October 1, 2012.
- **Must cut a minimum of 10 acres in a block UNLESS** this provision is waived by the FSA County Executive Director

Field No.	Acres	Acres to be cut

Key Forage Species: _____

Minimum Heights for cutting and regrowth

Key Forage Species	When to cut for highest quality	Minimum stubble height (inches)	Optimum regrowth before first killing frost (inches)
Creeping foxtail, Intermediate wheatgrass, Pubescent wheatgrass, Smooth bromegrass, Tall wheatgrass, Western wheatgrass, Bluegrass	Medium to full head	3	6
Slender wheatgrass	Early head	3	6
Crested wheatgrass, Green needlegrass, Orchardgrass	Boot to early heading	3	6
Reed canarygrass	Early boot	3	6
Big bluestem, Sand bluestem, Indiangrass, Switchgrass	Early boot to boot stage	6	10
Alfalfa	late bud to early flower	2	8

I (we) concur in the haying provisions as outlined above. I (we) understand that all requirements are to be followed to meet the 2012 _____ County Emergency CRP Haying provisions.

COOPERATOR (Producer) _____ Date: _____

NRCS representative _____ Date: _____

FSA County Committee _____ Date: _____

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