

For: State and County Offices

**Establishing 2015 Normal Grazing Periods for LFP for
“Cool Season” and “Warm Season” Improved Pasture Only**

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

Eligible grazing losses for LFP because of a qualifying drought for covered livestock **must** have occurred on land that is either of the following:

- native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover
- planted to a crop planted specifically for grazing for covered livestock during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land or pastureland in the county during the calendar year.

For 2012 through 2014, STC’s ensured that normal LFP grazing periods were established for each crop type to be consistent with grazing periods established for **NAP** purposes for the following pasture types:

- annual crabgrass
- annual ryegrass
- forage sorghum
- improved
- long season small grains
- native
- short season small grains.

For 2015 and subsequent years, to be more consistent with NAP-improved pasture with permanent vegetative cover normal grazing periods, LFP normal grazing periods for improved permanent pasture **must** be established based on a “full season” normal grazing period or “cool season” and “warm season” normal grazing periods, but **not** both.

Disposal Date	Distribution
October 1, 2015 2-20-15	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

1 Overview (Continued)

B Purpose

This notice informs State and County Offices that:

- beginning with the 2015 calendar year, STC's are required to establish normal grazing periods with improved permanent pasture based on a "full season" normal grazing period or "cool season" and "warm season" normal grazing periods, but **not** both
- if the county has only a "full season" normal grazing period for improved permanent pasture, and does **not** have "cool season" and "warm season" normal grazing periods for improved permanent pastures, then no action is necessary because STC's have previously established the "full season" grazing period as improved pasture and the grazing period has been rolled over for 2015 as a "full season improved pasture" normal grazing period.

2 Normal Grazing Periods for "Cool Season" and "Warm Season" Improved Pastures

A Establishing Normal Grazing Periods for "Cool Season" and "Warm Season" Improved Pastures

Under NAP, STC's have designated grazed forage types intended for grazing in the county as either of the following:

- full season
- cool season and warm season.

Important: STC's designated grazed forage types as either "full season" or "cool season" and "warm season", but **not** both. Grazing periods and carrying capacities were also established based on either "full season" or "cool season" and "warm season" grazing forage types. If a county designated grazed forage types as warm and cool season under NAP, STC's determined the grazing period during which each particular seasonal vegetation was generally available for consumption, such as when the type of forage normally comes out of dormancy for grazing purposes.

The length of time of the warm and cool season grazing periods were **not** required to be equal; however, combined they could **not** exceed 12 months.

2 Normal Grazing Periods for “Cool Season” and “Warm Season” Improved Pastures (Continued)

A Establishing Normal Grazing Periods for “Cool Season” and “Warm Season” Improved Pastures (Continued)

Example: STC’s designated grazed forage types as cool and warm season in County A for NAP.

The normal harvest date for Tall Fescue (FTA), a cool season improved permanent vegetative pasture on NCT, is April 14. NCT shows that the normal grazing days for FTA is 181 calendar days. By counting back 181 calendar days from April 14, the beginning date of the normal grazing period for FTA is October 16. Therefore, the normal grazing period for FTA is October 16 through April 14.

The normal harvest date for Common Bermuda (BCM), a warm season improved permanent vegetative pasture on NCT, is October 15. NCT shows that the normal grazing days for BCM is 184 calendar days. By counting back 184 calendar days, the beginning date of the normal grazing period for BCM is April 15. Therefore, the normal grazing period for BCM is April 15 through October 15.

The length of time of the warm and cool season normal grazing periods combined for FTA and BCM do **not** exceed 12 months.

In this example, the warm season grazing periods for permanent pasture forage types on NCT for NAP in County A is April 15 through October 15, including BCM. The cool season grazing periods for permanent pasture forage types on NCT for NAP in County A is October 16 through April 14, including FTA. STC, to be consistent with NAP, has established the following normal grazing periods for County A for cool season improved pasture and warm season improved pasture.

County A	Cool Season	Warm Season
	Improved Pasture	Improved Pasture
	<u>Grazing Period</u>	<u>Grazing Period</u>
	October 16 to April 14	April 15 to October 15

2 Normal Grazing Periods for “Cool Season” and “Warm Season” Improved Pastures (Continued)

A Establishing Normal Grazing Periods for “Cool Season” and “Warm Season” Improved Pastures (Continued)

STC’s shall:

- establish normal grazing periods for cool season improved pasture and warm season improved pasture only in those counties where warm and cool season grazing forage types and periods have been established for NAP purposes and approved on NCT for the 2015 crop year
- ensure that the normal grazing periods established for cool season improved pasture and warm season improved pasture for each county are consistent with those established for **NAP** purposes
- submit the normal grazing period dates for each applicable county by e-mail to both of the following:
 - Scotty Abbott at **scotty.abbott@wdc.usda.gov**
 - Shane Brown at **shane.brown@wdc.usda.gov**.

B Deadline

All normal grazing periods for cool season and warm season improved pastures shall be submitted to the National Office no later than March 2, 2015.