



## News Release



For Immediate Release

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### **FSA Announces Spring Grazing on CRP Acres**

*Bozeman, MT* – The Montana State Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced the 2009 grazing period for managed grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres. The 2009 spring grazing period is **March 15th through May 14th**. CRP participants who want to graze their CRP contracts this spring must sign up at their local FSA office.

Grazing cannot begin until the participant(s) receives written approval from the local FSA county committee or its designee. Spring managed grazing must end before May 15th, which is the start of Montana's Primary Nesting and Broodrearing Season.

Participants may graze CRP acres based on the rotation period (once every three years or once every 5 years) and other limitations that are included in their Conservation Plan of Operations. Producers wishing to graze CRP acres must first receive written notification of approval from the FSA county committee before managed grazing can begin. Livestock producers, who rent or lease acreage from the CRP participant, shall sign a statement agreeing not to sublease the CRP acreage and receive notification of approval from the FSA county committee, a copy of which they should provide to the CRP participant. All livestock must be removed from the CRP acreage when the calculated AUM's are utilized, but no later than May 14<sup>th</sup> for spring grazing. CRP participants will be assessed a payment reduction for managed grazing which is calculated by taking the number of acres grazed, times the CRP per acre annual rental payment, times 25 percent.

Managed grazing *and* managed haying of CRP will be allowed in 2009, however, a starting date for the summer/fall managed grazing *and* managed haying of CRP will be announced later.

For further information on eligibility requirements and payments, contact your local USDA Service Center or logon to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.