

August 2012



Ogemaw Area County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

**Ogemaw County
FSA Office Address:**
240 W. Wright St
West Branch, MI 48661

Phone: 989-345-5470
Fax: 989-345-4010
Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
County Executive Director:
John C. Porath
Program Technicians:
Jane Illig
County Committee (COC)
James Bischoff, Chair
Bradley Kartes, Vice Chair
Klint Marshall, Member
Julie Nelkie, Advisor

EMERGENCY GRAZING & HAYING

WHAT IS EMERGENCY GRAZING AND HAYING OF CRP ACREAGE?
If Authorized, Emergency Grazing & Haying is the planned harvesting of forage from CRP acres. When Grazing & Haying is managed according to NRCS Standards and Specifications and CRP Policy, plant health, animal health, and wildlife will benefit.

ELIGIBILITY

For 2012 ONLY, to be eligible for Emergency Grazing & Haying on CRP, the land must be enrolled in either CP1 (Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes), CP2 (Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses), CP4B (Permanent Wildlife Habitat), CP8 (Grass Waterway), CP10 (Vegetative Cover-Grass-Already Established), CP23A (Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain), CREP CP1 (Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes), &/or CREP CP2 (Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses), CREP CP23 (Wetland Restoration), CREP CP23A (Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain). Emergency Grazing & Haying is not available on any other CRP practice acres.

EMERGENCY GRAZING & HAYING MUST BE INCLUDED IN YOUR CONSERVATION PLAN (CPO) IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE.

EMERGENCY GRAZING or HAYING

MUST BE REQUESTED AND APPROVED BY THE FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE, PRIOR TO ANY SUCH ACTIVITIES BEING STARTED.

CRP POLICY

Emergency Grazing & Haying will only be allowed according to the Prescribed Grazing (528A) and Forage Harvest Management (511) standards in section IV of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and CRP Policy.

A 10% REDUCTION in the Annual Soil Rate will be assessed on the grazed or hayed acres in the year the grazing or haying occurred. For the benefit of wildlife at least 25 percent of each field or contiguous field must not be grazed; and at least 50 percent of each field or contiguous field must NOT be hayed.

NO Emergency Grazing & Haying will take place within 120 feet of PERMANENT streams, ponds, lakes, wetlands, or other permanent bodies of water as defined by CRP. Fencing may be needed, but is not eligible for cost share.

All livestock must also be excluded from SEASONAL bodies of water, and any planted trees or shrubs. Fencing may be needed, but is not eligible for cost-share. Emergency Grazing & Haying will not be allowed on CRP acres during the primary nesting season to protect ground-nesting wildlife. See the following specific information regarding specific grasses and management. Emergency Grazing & Haying will not start on CRP acres until at least 12 months after the FINAL STATUS REVIEW.

GRAZING WARM SEASON GRASS AND WILDFLOWERS

Warm Season Grasses (switchgrass, big bluestem, little bluestem,

Indiangrass and wildflowers) may only be grazed from AUGUST 1- SEPTEMBER 30 to protect ground nesting wildlife. All livestock must be warm season grass CRP acreage by September 30. Warm Season Grasses WILL NOT BE GRAZED LOWER THAN 8 INCHES to avoid damage to the grasses, and allow for adequate regrowth prior to the first frost.

GRAZING COOL SEASON GRASS AND LEGUMES

Cool Season Grasses and Legumes (timothy, orchard grass, brome, etc. and legumes such as clover and alfalfa) may only be grazed from AUGUST 1- SEPTEMBER 30 to protect ground nesting wildlife. All livestock must be off cool season grass CRP acreage by SEPTEMBER 30.

Cool season Grasses WILL NOT BE GRAZED LOWER THAN 3 INCHES to avoid damage to the grasses, and allow for adequate regrowth prior to the first frost.

HAYING WARM SEASON GRASS AND WILDFLOWERS

Warm Season Grasses (switchgrass, big bluestem, little bluestem, Indiangrass and wildflowers) may only be hayed from AUGUST 1- AUGUST 31 to protect ground nesting wildlife. All hay must be warm season grass CRP acreage by SEPTEMBER 15.

Warm Season Grasses WILL NOT BE CUT LOWER THAN 8 INCHES to avoid damage to the grasses, and to allow for adequate regrowth prior to the first frost.

HAYING COOL SEASON GRASS AND LEGUMES

Cool Season Grasses and Legumes (timothy, orchard grass, brome, etc. and legumes such as clover and alfalfa) may only be hayed from AUGUST 1- AUGUST 31 to protect ground nesting wildlife. All hay must be off cool season grass CRP acreage by SEPTEMBER 15.

Cool Season Grasses WILL NOT BE HAYED LOWER THAN 3 inches to avoid damage to the grasses, and allow for adequate regrowth prior to the first frost.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Any damage to the CRP cover as a result of EMERGENCY GRAZING & HAYING or any other activity will be repaired at the landowner's expense.

CONSIDERATIONS

Ensure livestock have access to adequate water while grazing CRP acreage. Livestock must be excluded from streams, ponds, etc. and these may not be used as water sources for the purposes of grazing CRP acreage. Temporary watering facilities such as pipelines and tanks may be temporarily placed on CRP acreage, but MUST be removed by SEPTEMBER 15 each year.

Minimize the distance livestock must travel to water for optimal animal health.

Consider grazing and or haying no more than 1/2 of the CRP acreage in any given year. This will allow an annual harvest of forage from CRP acreage on a rotational basis, while providing cover for wildlife.

Periodic management (prescribed burning, interseeding legumes and wildflowers, etc.) and maintenance of the CRP acreage may improve forage quality. Cost-share is available for these activities if they are included in your CPO.

MILC Program

FSA's Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. MILC payments are made when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt) as adjusted by the dairy feed ration adjustment. The monthly Boston price is posted online at:

http://www.fmmone.com/Northeast_Order_Prices/NE_Prices_main_new.htm.

Eligible producers should submit the current MILC (Milk Income Loss Contract) statements for payment. Eligibility for 2012 must be completed before payments can be disbursed. Please contact the office to check the status of your eligibility. New producers are encouraged to apply for the program any time before Sept. 30, 2012.

Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service

Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain conditions on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree, that they will not:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.

Producers planning to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage, must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026. FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.

To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact the FSA office or the NRCS office at a local USDA Service Center. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation, and information on NRCS programs can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).