

NEWS RELEASE

Oklahoma Farm Service Agency; 100 USDA, Suite 102; Stillwater, OK 74074; (405) 742-1130

USDA SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CHANGES TO CRP MANAGED HAYING AND GRAZING

(Stillwater, OK) March 3, 2008 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that it will hold a public meeting on March 24, 2008 at 1:00 pm on proposed changes to managed haying and grazing frequency on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will hold the meeting in the Seminar Room at the High Plains Technology Center located at 3921 34th Street in Woodward, OK.

FSA is proposing rule changes to the frequency that managed haying and grazing is allowed on land that is enrolled in CRP. Currently, managed haying and grazing on CRP is allowed once every five years. The proposal is to allow a once every three year managed haying and grazing interval on CRP. Public comments on the managed haying and grazing frequency will be accepted at the meeting.

FSA will consider public comments when it prepares state-specific environmental assessments that will evaluate the effects of the proposed changes. The environmental assessments will aid USDA decision-makers and the public with an analysis of the benefits and potential impacts of the proposed changes to managed haying and grazing on CRP land.

Public comments can be submitted both electronically and by regular mail. They must be received by the close of business on April 22, 2008. Direct comments to: MHG EAs, Geo-Marine Incorporated, 2713 Magruder Blvd., Suite D, Hampton, Va. 23666-1572 or send them to this Web site: <http://public.geo-marine.com>.

This meeting is one of 13 public meetings that will be held in 13 states where USDA is proposing rule changes to the managed haying and grazing program. More information on meeting dates and locations is available on the project Web site: <http://public.geo-marine.com>.

Contacts for the Oklahoma meeting are Rod Wanger and Phil Estes of the Oklahoma Farm Service Agency. They may be reached at (405) 742-1130, or by email at rod.wanger@ok.usda.gov or phil.estes@ok.usda.gov.

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