

News Release

Kansas Farm Service Agency

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Emergency Grazing Approved for Thirty-One Kansas Counties

Manhattan, Kansas, June 13, 2006---Bill R. Fuller, State Director of the Kansas Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced today that early emergency grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage has been approved in thirty-one counties in Kansas. This authorization is limited to grazing only and does not permit haying.

"This authorization, requested by the Kansas FSA, provides relief for many Kansas livestock producers who have suffered through severe drought conditions during the past 6 years," said Fuller. "The drought has depleted hay supplies and affected the growth of hay and pasture in parts of Kansas. Many livestock producers cannot maintain their current herds without implementation of CRP emergency grazing."

Fuller added, "Kansas FSA requested approval for forty-five counties. Some of these counties may be reconsidered with submission of additional documentation."

The thirty-one counties that have been approved for emergency grazing of CRP acreage are Cheyenne, Clark, Comanche, Decatur, Edwards, Ellis, Ellsworth, Finney, Gove, Graham, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell, Kearny, Lane, Lincoln, Logan, Meade, Morton, Ness, Osborne, Rawlins, Rush, Russell, Seward, Stanton, Stevens, Thomas, and Trego. The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook indicates the drought to persist or intensify through August 2006 in these counties. Grazing is allowed until September 11, 2006. All livestock must be removed at the end of this grazing period.

"Emergency grazing on CRP under a grazing plan should not harm the permanent grass stand or be a detriment to the nesting season," said Fuller. "We must recognize Senator Pat Roberts and Representative Jerry Moran, along with the Kansas State Technical Committee, Kansas FSA State Committee, and wildlife organizations for their support in achieving this endeavor to assist Kansas livestock producers.

CRP participants in approved counties shall contact the local FSA county office to request emergency grazing on an individual contract basis. Participants will work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop a forage management plan. Participants must also accept a 25 percent reduction in the annual rental payment for the acres actually grazed.

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