

## *News Release*

Kansas Farm Service Agency

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3600 Anderson Avenue  
Manhattan, Kansas 66503-2511  
(785) 539-3531 - Fax (785) 537-9659

Trish Halstead, Communications Coordinator  
[trish.halstead@ks.usda.gov](mailto:trish.halstead@ks.usda.gov)

### **CRP Emergency Haying and Grazing Area Expanded**

Manhattan, Kansas, July 14, 2006---Bill R. Fuller, State Director of the Kansas Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced today that livestock producers in counties approved for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) emergency haying and grazing may now hay or graze CRP in an expanded area in the Midwest, including all counties in Kansas.

"This expansion will allow livestock producers from eligible counties to obtain needed hay and forage," said Fuller.

Thirty-eight counties approved for emergency haying and grazing of CRP acreage are Cherokee, Cheyenne, Clark, Comanche, Decatur, Edwards, Ellis, Ellsworth, Finney, Ford, Gove, Graham, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Lane, Lincoln, Logan, Meade, Morton, Ness, Osborne, Rawlins, Rush, Russell, Scott, Seward, Sherman, Stanton, Stevens, Thomas, Trego, Wichita and Wallace.

Emergency haying in Kansas may start July 16, 2006. At least 50 percent of each field or contiguous fields must be left unhayed for wildlife; and at least 25 percent of each field or contiguous CRP fields left ungrazed for wildlife, or graze not more than 75 percent of the stocking rate. Emergency haying and grazing in Kansas is allowed through September 11, 2006. Livestock must be removed by September 12, 2006 and hay must be removed from the field within 30 days from the end of the haying period. Emergency haying and grazing is not allowed on the same acreage.

Livestock producers in the 38 eligible Kansas counties may purchase hay or conduct emergency haying or grazing of eligible CRP acres from CRP participants in any county in the expanded area in the Midwest. The expanded area includes counties within 150 mile radius of any approved county for emergency haying and grazing. The area includes counties in Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming. A map is available at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov), then click on 'Conservation' to the left, then click on 'Expanded Area of Eligibility for 2006 Emergency Haying and Grazing' on the right. Please note that Cherokee County, Kansas should be included on the map as approved for emergency haying and grazing.

Fuller also announced that FSA reduced the normal 25 percent payment reduction to 10 percent. CRP participants with acreage hayed or grazed by livestock producers from approved emergency haying and grazing counties will be assessed a 10 percent reduction in the annual rental payment for the acres actually hayed or grazed.

Livestock producers must certify they are an eligible livestock producer in an eligible county approved for emergency haying and grazing.

Fuller reminds CRP participants in the expanded area that are not in the 38 approved Kansas counties, that they may NOT hay or graze their CRP for their own use. CRP participants in the expanded area that are willing to allow haying or grazing on their CRP acreage by an eligible livestock producer from an approved county must agree to a 10 percent reduction of their annual rental payment.

CRP participants must obtain a modified conservation plan and the FSA county committee approval for the emergency haying and grazing before the eligible livestock producer may begin haying or grazing.

CRP participants shall contact the local FSA county office to request emergency haying or grazing on an individual contract basis. Participants will work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop a forage management plan. If the CRP cover is destroyed, the practice must be re-established at their own expense to remain in compliance with the CRP contract.

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