

News Release

Nebraska Farm Service Agency

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SHERIDAN COUNTY APPROVED FOR EMERGENCY HAYING, GRAZING

LINCOLN, NEB, August 16, 2007 - - Sheridan County has been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for emergency haying and grazing of grassland enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, according to Brian Wolford, State Executive Director of the Nebraska Farm Service Agency.

Scotts Bluff and portions of Sioux and Dawes counties have also been approved since July 25. Four Nebraska counties are now eligible for emergency haying and grazing, said Wolford. A state map of approved counties can be found on the Nebraska FSA website: www.fsa.usda.gov/ne.

“Under program rules, emergency haying and grazing on CRP lands can be authorized under drought conditions,” Wolford said. “To qualify, counties must either be designated as D3 – ‘Extreme Drought’ or greater on the U.S. Drought Monitor or document a 40 percent loss of moisture, forage and pasture from normal levels for the four previous months.”

Wolford said eligible program participants must submit emergency haying or grazing applications through their local FSA county offices. Participants who do not own or lease livestock may rent or lease their grazing privileges.

“Producers who elect to hay or graze their CRP acres, or allow others to do so because of the emergency, should understand that their annual rental payments will be reduced by 10 percent,” said Wolford.

Producers participating in normal managed haying and grazing activities on their CRP acreage are subject to a 25 percent reduction in their annual rental payments.

Producers in the affected counties are encouraged to contact their local Farm Service Agency office for details on how to apply for emergency haying and grazing.

Additional information on emergency haying and grazing is also available at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp-eg>.