

News Release

Nebraska Farm Service Agency

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EMERGENCY HAYING AND GRAZING EXPANDED

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, August 23, 2007 – To date, portions of both Dawes and Sioux Counties have been approved for emergency haying and grazing by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Today, Nebraska received approval from the National FSA Office authorizing emergency haying and grazing of CRP for all of Dawes and Sioux County.

With the expanded areas being approved for Dawes and Sioux counties, the Nebraska State FSA Committee has now authorized emergency haying and grazing of CRP in four Nebraska counties. The four counties are Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux and Dawes County. 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 to 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>.

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