

## *News Release*

Nebraska Farm Service Agency

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### **PORTIONS OF DAWES AND SIOUX COUNTIES APPROVED FOR EMERGENCY HAYING AND GRAZING**

LINCOLN, NE, Aug. 10, 2007 — Western Dawes County and most of Sioux County have been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for emergency haying and grazing of grassland enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, according to the head of the Farm Service Agency in Nebraska. These counties have been added to the list of counties designated for emergency haying and grazing.

“Scotts Bluff and the upper northwest part of Sioux counties were approved on July 25, 2007. All three of these Nebraska counties are now eligible for emergency haying and grazing and more requests are pending,” said Wolford. A state map of approved counties can be found on the Nebraska FSA website: [www.fsa.usda.gov/ne](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ne).

“With the addition of Dawes County today, livestock owners in Scottsbluff, Sioux and Dawes Counties can look to CRP as an option to replace pasture impacted by the drought.”

CRP acreage open to emergency relief has been expanded to include non-drought designated counties within a 210-mile radius of Nebraska. Livestock producers only within the approved counties may purchase hay or conduct emergency haying and grazing of eligible CRP acreage from an eligible CRP participant located in the 210-mile expanded area willing to provide hay or haying and grazing. A link to the national map outlining the approximate 210-mile radius can be found at the following link:

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

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. CRP participants within the expanded area may offer their acreage for emergency haying or grazing by eligible participants, but they may not hay or graze those acres for their own use.

(more)

The Conservation Reserve Program is voluntary and offers annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term resource-conserving cover on eligible land. This action allows approved CRP participants to cut hay or graze livestock on CRP acreage, thereby providing supplemental forage to producers whose pastures have been adversely affected by drought.

“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.

Emergency haying and grazing is normally limited CRP acres enrolled in the following conservation practices: CP1, Introduced Grasses; CP2, Native Grasses; CP4B, Permanent Wildlife Habitat Corridors; CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat; CP10, Vegetative Cover; CP 18B, Vegetation to Reduce Salinity; CP18C, Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover.

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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