

For: State and County Offices

2004 Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP Acreage

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

Section 1232(a)(7) of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, authorizes, in the case of a drought or other emergency, the Secretary to permit “emergency” haying and grazing of CRP acreage.

In some areas, severe weather conditions during the past 5 years have depleted hay supplies and affected the growth of hay and pasture in calendar year 2004.

It has been determined that conditions are such that **emergency haying and grazing** of certain CRP acreage is authorized. Emergency authorization must be either:

- STC determination based on D3 Drought - Extreme or D4 Drought – Exceptional according to the U.S. Drought Monitor
- CEPD determination on a county-by-county basis.

Emergency haying is **not** authorized until after the end of the primary nesting and broodrearing season. Emergency grazing may be authorized before the end of the primary nesting and broodrearing season according to guidance provided in this notice.

B Purpose

This notice provides that COC’s may request emergency haying (effective for after the primary nesting and broodrearing season) and grazing for all or part of the county according to 2-CRP, Part 13, Section 2.

<p>Disposal Date</p> <p>January 1, 2005</p>	<p>Distribution</p> <p>State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices, and NRCS State Offices</p>
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Notice CRP-470

2 General Information (Continued)

A Requests to Graze During the Primary Nesting and Broodrearing Season

Several counties are currently listed as D3 or D4 drought level according to the U.S. Drought Monitor; however, CRP acreage cannot be grazed during the primary nesting and broodrearing season. For those counties, STC may approve emergency grazing before the end of the primary nesting and broodrearing season only if it concurs with the State Technical Committee's recommendation to authorize emergency grazing during the primary nesting and broodrearing season. If the STC:

- concurs, STC may notify counties emergency grazing may occur during the State Technical Committee recommended and STC-approved waiver of the primary nesting and broodrearing season
- does **not** concur, STC's may submit requests to emergency graze during the primary nesting and broodrearing season to CEPD for approval.

Note: If a State Technical Committee has not met and recommended grazing CRP acreage before the end of the primary nesting and broodrearing season, the 14-day advance meeting notice may be waived according to the regulations at 7 CFR § 610.23(b).

B Approvals Based on 40 Percent Moisture Deviation

CEPD may authorize emergency haying and grazing of CRP acreage in all or part of an affected county that has STC concurrence based on a COC request. STC's must submit requests according to 2-CRP, paragraph 307.

C Payment Reduction

All provisions of 2-CRP, paragraphs 307 through 312 apply except that a payment reduction shall be assessed based on the number of acres actually hayed or grazed multiplied times the CRP annual rental rate multiplied times **10** percent. The payment reduction assessed for managed haying and grazing of CRP shall be reduced from 25 percent to **10** percent only for those counties or portion of a county approved for emergency haying and grazing.

2 General Information (Continued)

D Haying and Grazing Ending Dates

Emergency authorization shall be provided for haying or grazing from the date of CEPD approval for the county through:

- September 15, 2004, for haying
- September 30, 2004, for grazing
- the earlier date STC or COC determines emergency haying and grazing is no longer warranted in a county.

Conditions shall be reviewed on a monthly basis to determine whether continued haying and grazing is warranted. STC and COC shall review conditions in each county and shall discontinue authorization when conditions no longer warrant emergency haying of CRP acreage.