

24 August 2020 – Laramie, WY

## Emergency Haying and Grazing

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land.

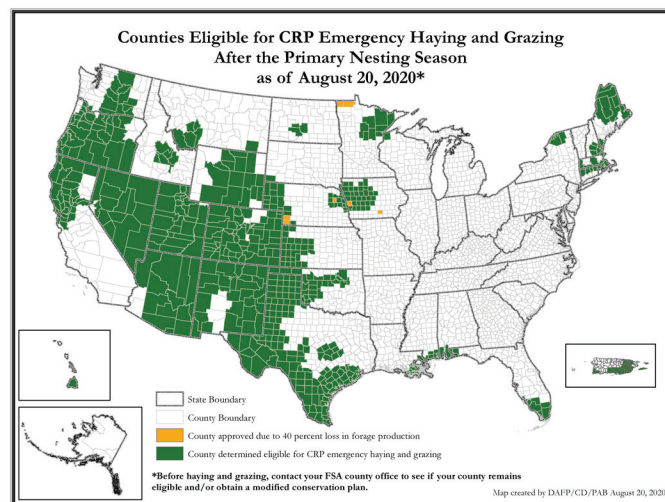
Haying and grazing of CRP acreage is authorized under certain conditions to improve the quality and performance of the CRP cover or to provide emergency relief to livestock producers due to certain natural disasters.

On August 7th 2020 FSA announced changes for emergency haying and grazing of acres enrolled in CRP. The changes simplify the authorization process with an automatic trigger by severe drought designation, allowing livestock producers to quickly access much-needed forage.

### Program Changes

Previously emergency haying and grazing requests originated with FSA at the county level and required state and national level approval. Now approval will be based on drought severity as determined by the U.S. Drought Monitor.

As of August 20th, 500 counties nationwide have triggered eligibility for emergency haying and grazing on CRP acres (see map). A current list or map of eligible counties by state is updated weekly and available on FSA's website.



Producers located in a county designated as severe drought (D2) or greater on or after the last day of the primary nesting season are eligible for emergency haying and grazing on all eligible acres. Additionally, producers located in counties that were in a severe drought (D2) status any single week during the last eight weeks of the primary nesting season may also be eligible for emergency haying and grazing unless the FSA County Committee determines that forage conditions no longer warrant emergency haying and grazing.

### CRP Emergency Haying and Grazing Provisions

Before haying or grazing eligible acres, producers *must submit a request for CRP emergency haying or grazing to FSA and obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).*

Emergency grazing is authorized for *up to 90 days* and emergency haying is authorized for *up to 60 days*. Program participants must stop haying and grazing *30 days before* the first freeze date in the fall based on the dates established for LFP.

Under the emergency grazing provisions, producers can use the CRP acreage for their own livestock or may grant another livestock producer use of the CRP acreage. The eligible CRP acreage is limited to *acres located within the approved county*. For emergency haying, producers are *limited to one cutting* and are permitted to sell the hay. Participants must remove all hay from CRP acreage *within 15 days after baling* and remove all livestock from CRP acreage no later than *1 day after the end of the emergency grazing period*.

Importantly, there are no longer any CRP annual rental payment reductions for emergency haying and grazing authorizations.

### For more information:

- *Emergency Haying and Grazing:* <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/emergency-haying-and-grazing/index>.
- *USDA Announces Changes to Emergency Haying and Grazing Provisions:* <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2020/usda-announces-changes-to-emergency-haying-and-grazing-provisions>.
- *Conservation Reserve Program:* <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/index>.