



**EMERGENCY HAYING AND
 GRAZING IN THE CONSERVATION
 RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)**

General Provisions

Emergency haying or grazing is restricted to the following practices on which the established cover is at least one (1) year old:

- CP1 – Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes
- CP2 – Permanent Native Grasses
- CP4B/CP4D – Permanent Wildlife Habitat (Herbaceous Portion Only)
- CP10 – Vegetative Cover Grass (Already Established)

Emergency haying and grazing is authorized after a county is declared eligible based on certification of either a drought or excessive rainfall condition.

Emergency grazing is limited to no more than a 90-day period specifically designated for a particular drought year, as determined by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Committee. Emergency haying is limited to a 60-day designated period. Emergency grazing due to flooding may only be authorized for 15 days.

Emergency haying and grazing is restricted to the acreage physically located within the declared emergency area, regardless of farm boundary or headquarters location, except that an entire field is eligible even when partially located outside the designated area.

Emergency haying or grazing requires written pre-approval by the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee

and a written conservation plan or plan modification. CRP participants must submit a request and an aerial photo designating the area, along with the conservation plan.

To protect wildlife values, at least 25 percent of each field, or 25 percent of the total acreage of contiguous fields is **INELIGIBLE** for emergency grazing; or livestock stocking rates are reduced by 25 percent as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or Technical Service Provider (TSP).

To protect wildlife values, at least 50 percent of each field or 50 percent of the total acreage of contiguous fields is **INELIGIBLE** for emergency haying.

No emergency haying or grazing is allowed during the primary nesting season of April 15-July 1.

Acreage **CANNOT** be scheduled for both haying and grazing.

Emergency haying is limited to only one cutting.

All hay or livestock must be removed from the CRP fields by the designated dates of the conservation plan to allow for a re-growth period before winter.

Landowners may lease or rent the haying or grazing privilege to an eligible livestock producer after providing the FSA County Office an aerial photo showing the acreage and the name of the producer.

Livestock producers who rent CRP fields under the emergency haying/grazing

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provision must agree in writing not to sublease CRP acreage and receive written approval from the FSA County Office before haying or grazing begins.

CRP participants will be assessed a 25 percent payment reduction of the annual rental rate for the actual acres hayed or grazed.

Cool Season Grasses

Cool season grasses (fescue, orchardgrass) shall be hayed or grazed no lower than an average height of three (3) inches. No more than 20 percent of the stand may be grazed lower than three inches as a result of spot grazing. Any areas resulting in the loss of adequate vegetative cover due to haying or

grazing shall be re-established by the landowner with no additional cost share, either through reseeding and/or supplemental lime and fertilizer.

Native Warm Season Grasses

Native warm season grasses (Big bluestem, Indiangrass, etc.) shall be hayed or grazed no lower than an average height of six (6) inches. No more than 20 percent of the stand may be grazed lower than six inches as a result of spot grazing. Any areas resulting in the loss of adequate vegetative cover due to haying or grazing shall be re-established by the landowner with no additional cost share, either through reseeding or verification of the adequacy of natural re-growth.

USDA cost -share program participants must comply with contract requirements. This job sheet may not meet contract requirements. Other job sheets are available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. For additional information, contact your local USDA Service Center, Natural Resources Conservation Service office or your local County Soil Conservation District office.

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To file a complaint, write U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.

CRP Emergency Haying and Grazing

TABLE 1. Designated periods for EMERGENCY HAYING. No extension of dates is allowed.

GRASS	ALLOWABLE HAYING DATES	FIELD(S)	ACRES	BEGIN DATE	END DATE
Cool Season Grasses (Fescue, Orchardgrass)	July 2 – September 30				
Native Warm Season Grasses (Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, etc.)	July 2 – August 31				

TABLE 2. Designated periods for EMERGENCY GRAZING. No extension of dates is allowed.

GRASS	ALLOWABLE GRAZING DATES	FIELD(S)	ACRES	STOCKING RATE (AU)	BEGIN DATE	END DATE
Cool Season Grasses (Fescue, Orchardgrass)	August 1 – September 30					
Native Warm Season Grasses (Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, etc.)	July 2 – August 31					

If the above tables are used as a planning tool for developing or modifying the CRP contract, in addition to filling in field numbers, acres, and scheduled year, enter the following client information in the blanks below:

LANDOWNER (PRODUCER) _____

TRACT NO. _____

CRP CONTRACT NO. _____

DATE _____

NRCS DISTRICT _____
CONSERVATIONIST

DATE _____

COC APPROVAL _____

DATE _____

LIVESTOCK PRODUCER RENTING? YES
NO

IF YES, PRODUCER MUST BE APPROVED BY COC.