

**ALABAMA**

**EMERGENCY HAYING PLAN**

**FOR**

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM  
(CRP)**

**LAND**

**General Purposes**  
**EMERGENCY HAYING PLAN FOR**  
**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) LAND**  
**Upon Approval**  
**Through September 30, 2006**

Proper management of grasses and legumes are important for your soil and water conservation program. They prevent erosion, and add fertility and organic material to the soil. They help the soil absorb more water, thus reducing runoff. Forages also provide grazing, hay and feeding and nesting areas for many birds and other wildlife.

Also, good management prolongs the life of desirable forage species and maintains or improves the quality and quantity of forage.

**Minimum Stubble Heights:** Sufficient leaf growth must be maintained to assure that a healthy plant community capable of providing the desired level of erosion control remains after the haying period ends. Forages will not be cut closer than a minimum stubble height so as to maintain a healthy plant community. Stubble height is based on the average height of key forage species for hay. Table 1 contains the minimum stubble heights for common hay grasses and legumes in Alabama.

**Wildlife Areas:** When haying CRP acreage, at least 50 percent of each field or contiguous fields will not be cut and will be maintained for wildlife.

**Haying Period:** Haying shall not be conducted after September 30, 2006. All hay shall be removed from CRP fields by October 1, 2006. These dates are subject to change by the local FSA County Committee.

**Number of Cuttings:** Haying shall be limited to 1 cutting.

**Table 1**

Minimum Stubble Heights for Grasses and Legumes Commonly Used for Hay

Species	Minimum Stubble Height
	<u>Inches</u>
Bahiagrass	2
Bermudagrass, Hybrid	2
Bermudagrass, Common	2
Dallisgrass	3
Fescue, tall	3
Johnsongrass	8
Native Grasses	8
Orchardgrass	3
Sericea	4