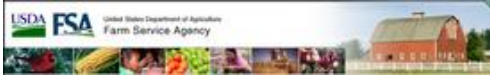




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(Neb.)- FSA Announces Emergency Haying And Grazing Counties



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 07/15/2013 04:02 PM

(Lincoln)- Nebraska Farm Service Agency Director, Dan Steinkruger announced Monday, July 15th, that 49 Nebraska counties are authorized for emergency haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acres for 2013 due to drought conditions.

The northwest and central Panhandle counties approved for emergency haying and grazing are Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan, and Sioux. The authorization for 2013 begins July 16th, 2013 for both emergency haying and emergency grazing, which coincides with the end of the primary nesting and brood rearing season in Nebraska.

Emergency haying and grazing of CRP acres is intended to provide assistance to livestock producers who are suffering forage losses due to severe drought. "Drought has been ongoing in Nebraska counties for more than a year and forage losses have impacted livestock producers to the extent of drastic herd reductions," said Steinkruger. "In 2012 the USDA opened CRP acres for emergency haying and grazing and Nebraska farmers and ranchers utilized over 300,000 acres under the program to provide forage to livestock," he said.

"Eligible producers who are interested in emergency haying or grazing of CRP must request approval before haying or grazing eligible acreage," said Steinkruger. "Producers must also obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service that outlines permitted practices," he said. Many of the limitations and requirements of CRP emergency haying and grazing were waived in 2012; however for 2013 there will be a 25 percent reduction in the annual rental payments and no haying or grazing will be allowed on rare and declining habitat.

Steinkruger noted, "FSA is continuing to utilize our available program options to assist Nebraska farmers and ranchers whose livestock are impacted by the drought."

Producers are encouraged to contact the Dawes/Northern Sioux County FSA Office at 432-4616, Sheridan County FSA Office at 308-327-2489, or the Box Butte FSA Office at 308-762-4322.