

CRP acreage released for emergency use

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A large amount of Nebraska's land enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program in Nebraska is now available for haying and grazing, according to Farm Service Agency state director Dan Steinkruger.

USDA secretary Tom Vilsack announced last week that counties designated as D2 on the Drought Monitor could be released by the FSA State Committee after the ending nesting date of July 15 in Nebraska. Vilsack also announced a reduction in the emergency haying and grazing payment reduction from 25% to 10% to assist in drought response.

CRP participants need to file a request to graze or hay at their local office. CRP use includes specific rules for haying and/or a grazing plan to insure consistent uses of the land. An additional approval was granted this year for practice CP-25, Rare and Declining Habitat, to allow grazing for the first time.

"This approval will provide additional forage during this drought to assist livestock producers," Steinkruger said.

A current Nebraska map listing approved counties is on the Nebraska FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/ne. The map will be updated as new counties qualify.