



Natural Resources Conservation Service
State Office
100 USDA, Suite 206
Stillwater, OK 74074-2655
Telephone (405) 742-1236

June 23, 2003

OKLAHOMA BULLETIN NO. OK300-3-3

SUBJECT: LTP – Modification of CRP Contracts for Managed Haying and/or Grazing

Purpose: To provide field offices guidance and a standardized conservation plan of operations (CPO) for modifying contracts for managed haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2003

Provisions of the 2002 Farm Bill provided for managed haying and grazing of CRP. Managed haying and grazing of CRP may occur on the specified acreage once every three years. FSA county offices will announce the program and notify all participants of the availability of managed haying and grazing CRP. FSA has provided OK Notice CRP-554 with the managed haying and grazing provisions specific to Oklahoma. NRCS personnel should become familiar with the attached notice and the content of this bulletin prior to servicing requests for CPO (conservation plan/contract support document) revisions. Due to workload priorities, field offices will not be required to conduct a field visit to complete these revisions. Additionally, the instructions and conservation planning templates are available on the Oklahoma NRCS website at:

http://intranet.ok.nrcs.usda.gov/PGM/html/forms_for_downloading.htm

Managed Grazing Provisions:

The following is a summary of the Managed Grazing provisions:

- Managed grazing is allowed for one consecutive four-month period excluding the primary nesting season of May 1 through July 1.
- A minimum residual grazing height of the cover must remain on the acreage during the grazing period. The chart below provides these heights.
- Producers must file a request to graze with FSA before grazing begins.
- A modified CPO must be obtained prior to grazing.
- Participants may lease grazing privileges to any eligible livestock producer. Refer producers to FSA for this determination.
- Acreage eligible for emergency grazing includes acreage devoted to practices CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP10, CP18B, or CP18C. Acreage shall become eligible 12 months after the cover is fully established. Temporary cover is not eligible.
- Ineligible acreage includes acreage in a useful life easement, land within 100 feet of a stream or other permanent waterbody, and other CRP practices not listed above.
- There is a 25% reduction in the annual rental payment for each acre grazed.
- FSA is responsible for compliance checking on CRP contracts.
- Fencing, watering, or other equipment may be established at the producer's expense, if necessary, to ensure that the required areas remains ungrazed.
- Acreage grazed shall not be hayed.

NRCS will provide each approved participant a revised conservation plan to include the grazing requirements. This plan will be prepared and approved prior to the grazing of the acreage. The participant must retain the minimum residual grazing height of the grass being grazed on the field at all times during the grazing period. If the minimum residual grazing height method is not feasible for the type of grass and the area, NRCS may determine the grazing requirements by setting and recording stocking rates on the Forage Inventory and Annual Grazing Plan. The procedure and

(MORE)

DIST:AO

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

worksheet are attached to assist in the grazing planning. The participant cannot exceed the amounts shown in the plan.

MINIMUM RESIDUAL GRAZING HEIGHTS IN INCHES

Grass/Mixture Type	Average Minimum Height (inches)
Bermudagrass	3
Big Bluestem	6
Fescue	4
Indiangrass	6
Introduced Bluestems	4
Native mixtures, mixed and tall grasses	4
Native short grass mixtures predominately Buffalo, Blue Grama, and Sideoats Grama	3
Orchardgrass	3
Pubescent Wheatgrass	4
Sideoats, Blue and Hairy Grama	6
Switchgrass	4
Tall Wheatgrass	5
Weeping Lovegrass	5
Western Wheatgrass	4
Alkali Sacaton	6

Technical determinations should be made for grasses not listed above and recorded on the modification. The NRCS-LTP-12-E for emergency grazing is provided at the website listed on Page 1 of this bulletin. Field offices can photocopy this example, fill in the blanks, secure the needed signatures, and make copies.

Managed Haying:

Provisions of the Managed Grazing of CRP are the same for Managed Haying except for the following differences:

CRP may be hayed during the following periods:

- Warm Season Grasses – July 2 through August 15
- Cool Season Grasses – March 15 through April 30
- Haying is limited to one cutting.
- CRP hay may be sold.
- Participants shall not hay and graze the same acreage.
- If adequate escape cover is not adjacent to the field, a 30 foot uncut buffer must be left around each field.

The standard and specification for Forage Harvest Management (511) is to be used to specify proper haying heights.

The NRCS-LTP-12-E for managed haying is also provided at the website listed on Page 1 of this bulletin. Field offices can photocopy this example, fill in the blanks, secure the needed signatures, and make copies for FSA and the participant. The FSA State Office has determined that it will not be necessary to secure conservation district signatures on modifications for the managed haying and grazing program. In order to expedite the acquisition of signatures, it will be left up to each local conservation office as to whether or not conservation district signatures are obtained.

The CPO requires signatures of all contract participants. Where multiple participants' signatures are required, NRCS will provide the CPO to the primary participant. The primary participant will be responsible for obtaining all signatures and returning the CPO to NRCS.

/s/ John Glover, Acting For

M. DARREL DOMINICK
State Conservationist

Attachments