Grassland Reserve Program

Iowa Fact Sheet
2012

USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program that helps landowners and operators protect working grasslands, including hayland, pastureland, native grasslands and certain other lands using rental contracts or conservation easements. Restoration agreements on either rental contracts or conservation easements may be required for some properties.

GRP emphasizes support for working grazing operations, enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity, and protection of grasslands under threat of conversion to cropping, urban development and other activites.

Grazing Plan Required

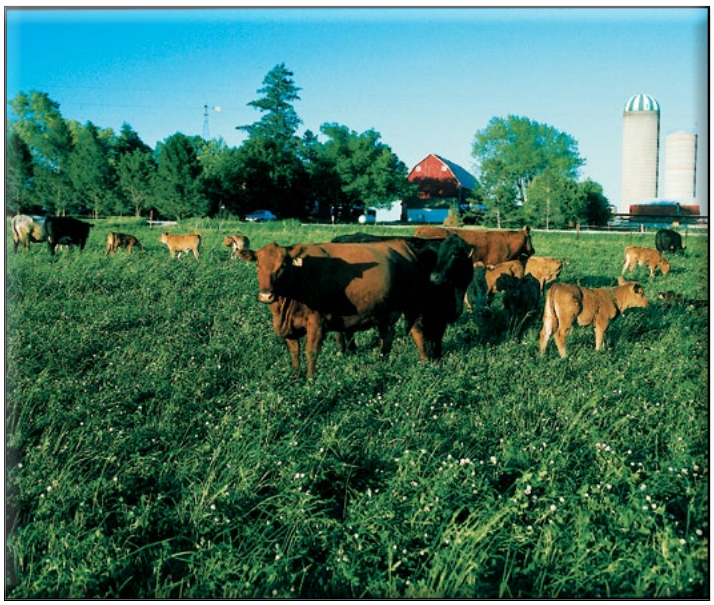
A grazing management plan is required for all GRP rental contracts and easements where grazing occurs. A grazing management plan addresses resource concerns on land where grazing related activities or practices are planned and applied. This plan will include any restrictions to haying, mowing, or harvesting for seed production during the nesting season for grassland birds in the local area that are in significant decline.

No Crop Production

GRP Easements and rental contracts prohibit the production of crops, fruit trees, vineyards or other agricultural commodities and other activities inconsistent with maintaining grassland and related conservation values.

Grazing/Haying/Prescribed Burning OK

GRP easements and rental contracts allow common grazing practices, including those related to forage and seed production. Fire suppression activities, such as building firebreaks and prescribed burning are allowed, as well as grazing related activities such as fencing and livestock watering facilities.



Avoid Primary Nesting Season

Haying, seed harvest or grazing activities are not permitted on 20 percent of the contract acres during the nesting season of June 1 - July 15 on warm and cool season grasses to promote use by wildlife.

Contact Information

If you need more information and updates about the GRP, contact your local USDA Service Center or visit the Iowa NRCS GRP Web page at:
www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/grasslandreserve.html

Information is also available at:

- www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/
- www.fsa.usda.gov

Farm Bill 2008

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