

# Converting Expiring CRP to Grazing: Considerations

Nebraska Fact Sheet

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Over the years, your CRP fields have supported the growth of valuable grasses and forbs with root systems that have held the soil and build up organic matter. Consider developing a sustainable grazing system on your expiring CRP fields to maintain soil condition while returning the fields to profitable use.

The following elements should be determined when developing a grazing plan on CRP:

## Kind of grasses in the field

- Warm season
- Cool season
- Combination

## Current production

- Determine from past grazing records or clipping and estimation

## Current forage quality

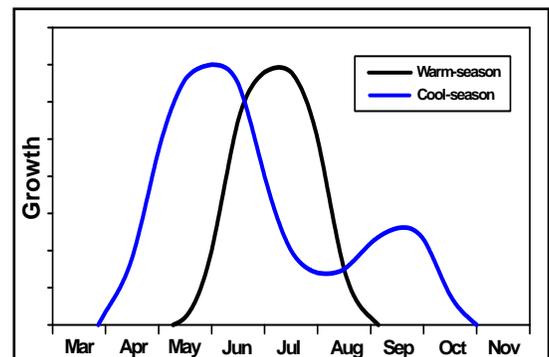
- Is there an excessive thatch buildup? Consider haying or burning to improve initial forage quality

## Determine the appropriate stocking rate

- Based on a balance of forage production and livestock needs

## Grazing Management

- What style of grazing management will best achieve your objective? Consider rotation schedules, intensity of management
- What practices are required to implement the grazing system? Fence, water, livestock handling facilities



Match periods of livestock nutritional needs to the growth periods of the predominant plants in the CRP fields.



**Where to get help:** Contact your local NRCS office for technical assistance in determining current forage production and in development of grazing plan alternatives as well as financial assistance options.