

Conservation Reserve Program Managed and Emergency Haying and Grazing Guidance

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or the Technical Service Provider (TSP) will provide Form AD-1156, Revision of Plan or Schedule of Operations or Modification of a Contract, to the producer as documentation of guidance.

Vegetation should improve or maintain condition while increasing forage production. No more than 50 percent of the current year's production by weight shall be used.

For grazing purposes, use the following guidance for Managed, Emergency, or Critical Feed Use Grazing:

Prescribed Grazing (Practice Code 528) will be used.

Grazing Stubble Height

The grazing plan will provide that grazing will occur until an average height of 5 inches is reached.

This height has the Farm Service Agency (FSA) required 25 percent reduction for emergency grazing built into it.

If requested for managed, emergency, or critical feed use grazing, the NRCS or the TSP may complete a Forage Harvest Management Plan that will provide an **estimated** stocking rate for the **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres** to be grazed. All producers will be offered the required level of conservation planning assistance to develop managed grazing plans that address producer objectives and resource needs. Use the following guidance to develop a Forage Harvest Management Plan.

Forage Harvest Management Plan

A grazing plan will be developed that defines production and stocking rate. This plan will also refer to the 5-inch stubble height, as no grazing may occur below this average level. The Forage Harvest Management Plan is an **estimate** only to be used for planning purposes.

Use the following guidance to calculate stocking rates.

1) Determine Estimated Total Annual Production

Rangeland

- Estimated Total Annual Production =
Acres of CRP x Range Site Condition Animal Unit Months (AUMs)/acre
 - Refer to the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG),
Section II, Rangeland Interpretations
 - Example:
 - 100 acres CRP, Clay Lowland Range Site, Excellent Condition
 $100 \text{ acres} \times 1.2 \text{ AUM/acre} = \boxed{120 \text{ AUMs}}$

2) Determine Estimated Safe Initial Stocking Rate

- Estimated Safe Initial Stocking Rate = AUMs/time of use/Animal Unit Equivalent (AUE)
 - Examples:
 - CRP field has 120 AUMs available
Producer wants to know how many 600 pound yearlings he can graze five months. If the steers gain 1.5 pounds per day, the AUE is .7. $(600 + 825) \times .5 = 712.5$
 $120 \text{ AUM} / 5 \text{ months} / 0.7 \text{ AUE} = \boxed{34 - 600 \text{ pound yearlings}}$
 - CRP field has 120 AUMs available
Producer wants to know how long he can graze 30 – 1,200 pound cows with three-month old calves.
 $120 \text{ AUM} / (1.2 \text{ AUE} \times 30) = \boxed{3.6 \text{ months}}$

For haying purposes, use the following guidance for Managed, Emergency, or Critical Feed Use Haying

Forage Harvest Management (Practice Code 511) will be used.

If harvesting native grasses, Practice Code 511 specification calls for one cutting prior to July 20. Cutting prior to July 20 will provide optimum quality and quantity of forage, as well as an opportunity for regrowth. For CRP acres, cutting will normally occur after the end of the upland bird nesting season (July 15), so a minimum cutting height of 5 inches is recommended for all haying of CRP acres. Producers should be strongly encouraged to harvest the forage as soon after July 15 as possible to ensure quality hay and to allow adequate regrowth.