

MNSTC SUMMARY OUTLINE

State: Minnesota

Topic: Recommendation for Implementing Emergency Haying and Grazing Provisions on CRP Acreage

Matter for Consideration: Seeking a recommendation from the Minnesota State Technical Committee for the implementation of Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP acreage for all or portions of Counties who have experienced excessive moisture in FY 2013.

Background: Excessive precipitation received over the last few months has caused a shortage of forage in different regions in Minnesota.

On July 10, 2013, 20 Counties in Southeastern Minnesota were approved for a Secretarial Disaster Designation due to the combined effects of heavy rainfall, followed by freezing temperatures and multiple periods of thawing and refreezing which resulted in winterkill. These 20 Counties designated as primary disaster counties have suffered a 30 percent or greater loss of alfalfa acreage.

Based on the excessive precipitation and loss of hay or pasture production, emergency haying and grazing of CRP has been requested by producer groups and agricultural organizations as a means to provide relief to livestock producers in the affected areas.

Applicable Program Provisions: 2-CRP (Rev. 5) Paragraph 691 provides the policy and provisions in which Counties can apply for national approval for emergency haying and grazing of acreage under certain CRP contract practices. As a basis for eligibility, a County Committee (COC) must provide evidence that the County is suffering from a 40 percent or greater loss in normal hay and pasture production and have excessive moisture conditions in which precipitation levels indicate an average of 140 percent or greater increase in normal precipitation during the 4 most recent consecutive months.

Finding of Fact: Counties located in different regions of the State have suffered from a 140 percent or greater increase in normal precipitation for the 4 consecutive month period of March 3, 2013 through July 3, 2013.

A map is attached that identifies those Counties in Minnesota

County Committees seeking approval for Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP must provide justification that have suffered from a 40 percent or greater loss in normal hay and pasture production.

MNSTC Options: <input type="checkbox"/> Recommend Implementation of EM H&G to FSA STC <input type="checkbox"/> Deny <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	MNSTC Determination: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Recommend Implementation of EM H&G to FSA STC <input type="checkbox"/> Deny <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
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Conditions of Request: CRP Participants approved for emergency haying and grazing must meet the following conditions:

- Emergency Haying and Grazing cannot occur until after the end of the Primary Nesting Season (PNS) or until August 2, 2013.
- Only the standard CRP practices will be authorized for Emergency Haying and Grazing. Those practices are:
 - CP1 – Introduced Grasses
 - CP2 – Native Grasses
 - CP4B – Wildlife Habitat – Corridors
 - CP4D – Wildlife Habitat
 - CP10 – Grass Already Established
 - CP18B – Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity
 - CP18C – Permanent Salt Tolerance Vegetative Cover
- Leave 50 percent of each field or contiguous CRP fields unhayed for wildlife.
- Leave at least 25 percent of each field or contiguous CRP fields ungrazed for wildlife.
- Deadline for Emergency Haying is August 31; all bales must be removed from CRP acreage by September 15, 2013.
- Limit haying of CRP acreage to one cutting;
- Remove all livestock from CRP acreage no later than September 30, 2012
- **Not** hay and graze the same acreage;

MNSTC Recommendation: