CRP Management
And a bit on Haying and Grazing...
Management - Overview

- Management (formerly called Mid-Contract Management) is required on all “suitable” practices in CRP.
- No cost-share assistance will be provided to conduct Management.
- The State Conservationist can recommend CRP practices to be “exempt” from Management with proper approval at state and national levels - gathering input today to go to FSA State Committee in two weeks.
- Expanded opportunity for grazing and haying on various CRP practices may be useful to accomplish management.
Management Recommendations

- Basically - allow options for setting back plant succession as was offered in previous years:
  - Tillage or Disking
  - Site Specific Herbicide Use
  - Prescribed Burning
  - High Intensity - Short Duration Grazing
  - Haying (as a stand alone practice on diverse grass/forb stands)

- Interseeding of additional forbs or legumes
  - Optional to increase or prolong benefits
  - Only required when needed to maintain the appropriate plant composition required by that conservation practice
Exempt Practice Recommendations

- CP-8A Grass Waterways
- CP-12 Food Plots
- CP-5A Field Windbreaks
- CP-16A Shelterbelts
- CP-17A Living Snowfence

NOTE: These practices either require substantial maintenance and/or it is not practical to implement management

- CP-88 Native Grass in CRP Grasslands (management not required)
Haying and Grazing as Management

- Haying as a “stand alone” practice on “block” enrollments with adequate diversity, limited sod-forming grass, etc.
- Limit haying to 50% of the total acres (in block) if used as management
- Allow haying to count as management on grass “buffer” practices where authorized – filter strips, contour buffers, field borders, cross wind trap strips, prairie strips, and “narrow” buffers on wetlands

- Grazing must be “high intensity – short duration” if intended to apply as management on “block” enrollments
- Grazing during the nesting season does not count as management
- Allow incidental grazing to be considered management on grass “buffer” practices where authorized
- Dormant season grazing on “diverse stands” during November or March/April may be considered management
Management on Tree Practices

- Management in initial enrollment period will focus on herbaceous vegetation diversity
- Management in subsequent re-enrollments will use thinning, pruning, interplanting of shrubs, etc. for more diversity and creation of snags and small brush piles to accomplish management
- Not significant acres of riparian forest buffer or block tree plantings in Nebraska affected by these options
Management on Pollinator Habitat

- Treat small areas of pollinator (<10 acres) different than those 10 acres and larger
- Hay only a portion (i.e. 50%) in any given year
- Graze only a portion (i.e. 50%) in any given year during growing season
- Grazing of entire pollinator habitat allowed during dormant season
- Other management techniques must not diminish forb diversity (i.e. herbicide use) unless interseeded to replace forb diversity
- Implement outside of growing season if possible (tillage, burning, etc.)
- On larger blocks, only treat 50% of acres in any given year
Haying and Grazing NOT as Management

- Nesting season grazing is allowed at 50% stocking rate - will be estimated using forage production data or clipping.
- Incidental grazing is allowed on grass “buffers” during gleaning of crop stubble AND during the dormant season for small grains.
- Dormant season grazing may occur during November and also March/April - but limit to 50% of the contract acres (except <10 acres).
- A site specific grazing plan may be used to target an invasive species. Invasive species will be defined by the list generated by the Invasive Species Council.
Discussion of Recommendations