

For: State and County Offices

CRP – Authorizing Emergency Haying

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs

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1 Overview

A Background

As conditions deteriorate and drought expands across much of the Northern Plains, USDA is offering assistance to farmers and ranchers through numerous federal farm program provisions including CRP and continues to monitor the situation to ensure all viable program flexibilities are offered to producers.

Because of the rapidly worsening drought and increasing degradation of existing forage, the Secretary is authorizing emergency haying beginning July 16, in counties in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota that have been identified as having D2 drought conditions or above, as indicated by the US Drought Monitor according to 2-CRP, and counties located in the 150 mile buffer.

B Purpose

This notice provides:

- guidance on emergency haying
- clarification to notice CRP-835 that producers who donate their hay as part of a mid-contract management (MCM) activity are not required to pay the 25 percent annual payment reduction.

Disposal Date	Distribution
July 1, 2018 7-10-17	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

Notice CRP-837

2 A CRP Emergency Haying Policy

In counties in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota that have been identified as having D2 drought conditions or above, as indicated by the US Drought Monitor according to 2-CRP, and counties in the 150 mile buffer:

- CRP acreage may be hayed beginning July 16 or grazed according to emergency grazing authorities previously announced and according to 2-CRP, paragraph 691
- will require a new NRCS-CPA-52 on the acres being hayed.

Note: July 15 marks the end of the Primary Nesting Season in Montana. Because of the severe drought conditions, authorization for emergency haying may begin July 16 in North Dakota and South Dakota.

CRP participants:

- who do not own or lease livestock, may rent or lease the haying or grazing privilege to an eligible livestock producer according to 2-CRP, paragraph 693
- will not be assessed a payment reduction for emergency haying or grazing
- must document the farms receiving the donated forage, according to 2-CRP, Exhibit 52.

Note: MCM managed harvesting scheduled for this FY may consider emergency haying to meet the MCM requirement.

3 Action

A State Office Action

State Offices will ensure that policy in this notice is followed.

B County Office Action

County Offices will ensure that County Offices follow the provisions of this notice.

C Contact

For questions about this notice, contact Jim Williams by either of the following:

- e-mail to jim.williams@wdc.usda.gov
- telephone at 202-720-9562.