

## 4/20/2004 Moran Requests Regulation Change to Assist Livestock Producers

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Amending Regulations Would Allow for Incidental Grazing on CCRP

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that he has requested a regulation change to allow for the incidental grazing of buffer strips on ground enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will amend regulations in the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). Currently, incidental grazing is allowed for producers of corn, grain sorghum and soybeans. However, wheat producers are not allowed to incidentally graze buffer strips while grazing livestock on growing wheat.

"This is an important issue for our Kansas producers who have land enrolled in CRP," Moran said. "Changing these regulations will allow producers to graze growing wheat without having to go through the cost and effort of fencing off narrow buffer strips."

USDA conservation programs allow producers to plant grass buffer strips to improve water quality and habitat for wildlife. However these strips must be fenced off from livestock grazing on growing wheat. It is often impractical and expensive to fence off these strips, and by modifying these regulations in CCRP, producers will have more incentive and flexibility to participate in the program.

"During my conservation tour last fall, producers shared with me their interest in enrolling in CRP, but they found the current incidental grazing regulations cumbersome," Moran said. "This common sense solution gives producers more options for their livestock while doing their part to protect our natural resources."

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