

6/01/2004 USDA to Allow Incidental Grazing

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Changes Rules After Moran Request

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that at his request, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has amended regulations to allow for the incidental grazing of certain ground enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Prior to Moran's request, the USDA allowed incidental grazing for producers of corn, grain sorghum and soybeans who graze crop residue. However, wheat producers were not allowed to incidentally graze filter strips while grazing livestock on growing wheat.

"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 change is good news for Kansas producers who have land enrolled in CRP and would like to graze wheat. I appreciate that USDA responded so quickly in agreeing to change these regulations."

USDA conservation programs allow producers to plant filter strips to improve water quality and habitat for wildlife. Prior to the regulation change these strips were required to be fenced off from livestock grazing on growing wheat. It is can be impractical and expensive to fence off these strips, and by modifying these regulations in CRP, producers will have more incentive and flexibility to participate in the program.

"This common sense solution gives producers more options for their livestock while doing their part to protect our natural resources," Moran concluded.

The new regulations take effect immediately. Please contact your local Farm Service Agency office for more details.

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