



# North Dakota State Technical Committee Review of CRP Haying/Grazing Frequencies



## Haying and Grazing

# Topics to be covered

- Haying and Grazing History
- 2014 Farm Bill Changes





# Haying and Grazing History

- 1988
  - Emergency haying and grazing authorized for first time
- 2002 Farm Bill
  - Managed haying and grazing authorized
- September 26, 2006
  - Settlement of NWF Lawsuit.
- 2008 Farm Bill
  - Managed haying and grazing repealed
  - Managed harvesting and routine grazing authorized
- 2014 Farm Bill
  - Changes that will be covered in this section



# 2014 Farm Bill Changes

- Primary Nesting Season
- Managed harvesting frequency
- Managed harvesting payment reduction
- Emergency haying and grazing payment reduction
- Routine grazing frequency
- Routine grazing payment reduction



# Primary Nesting Season

- New language in the statute:
  - “...the nesting season for birds in the local area that are economically significant, in significant decline, or conserved in accordance with Federal or State law, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the State Technical Committee,...
- **FSA has determined no changes to current policy and periods**



# Managed Harvesting

- CRP harvested for:
  - Hay
  - Biomass



# Managed Harvesting

- Eligibility:
  - All CRP participants eligible
  - Acreage eligible 12 months after cover is fully established





# Managed Harvesting

- Eligible Practices:
  - CP1
  - CP2
  - CP4B, CP4D
  - CP10
  - CP18B, CP18C
  - CP38 if included in the approved SAFE proposal



# Managed Harvesting

- General Provisions:
  - Acreage may not be harvested during the primary nesting season (PNS)
  - ND's PNS is April 15<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>



# Managed Harvesting

- 2014 Farm Bill stipulates:
  - Acreage may not be harvested more frequently than 1 out of every 3 years or
  - Less frequently than 1 out of every 5 years
  - Statutory requirement to assess a 25 percent or greater payment reduction



# Managed Harvesting

- 2014 Farm Bill stipulates:
  - States listed in the National Wildlife Federation Settlement Agreement are **no longer** subject to the terms of the agreement
  - These States may establish a new frequency in consultation with the State Technical Committee
  - **Producers are still subject to the terms of the Settlement Agreement until they obtain a new conservation plan**

# Managed Grazing

- Eligibility:
  - All CRP participants eligible
  - Acreage eligible 12 months after cover is fully established
- Applies to contracts approved prior to July 28, 2010.



# Managed Grazing

- Eligible Practices:
  - CP1
  - CP2
  - CP4B, CP4D
  - CP10
  - CP18B, CP18C
  - CP38 if included in the approved SAFE proposal



# Managed Grazing

- General Provisions:
  - Acreage may not be grazed during the primary nesting season
  - Acreage may not be grazed more frequently than 1 out of every 3 years
  - Assess a 25 percent payment reduction



# Managed Grazing

- General Provisions:
  - States listed in the National Wildlife Federation Settlement Agreement are **no longer** subject to the terms of the agreement.
  - Producers are still subject to the terms of the Settlement Agreement until they obtain a new conservation plan.

# Routine Grazing

- Three activities:
  - Routine Grazing
  - Routine – Incidental Grazing
  - Routine – Permissive Grazing – first year of contract – general signup
- Applies to contracts approved on or after July 28, 2010.

# Routine Grazing

- Eligibility:
  - All CRP participants eligible
  - Acreage eligible 12 months after cover is fully established



# Routine Grazing

- Eligible Practices:
  - CP1
  - CP2
  - CP4B, CP4D
  - CP10
  - CP18B, CP18C
  - CP38 if included in the approved SAFE proposal



# Routine Grazing

- General Provisions:
  - Acreage may not be grazed during the primary nesting season
  - Frequency and duration developed in consultation with State Technical Committee
  - **Acreage may not be grazed more frequently than 1 out of every 2 years (every other year)**
  - Statutory requirement to assess a 25 percent or greater payment reduction
  - If grazed by livestock of beginning farmer or rancher payment reduction is zero



# Routine Grazing

- **General Provisions:**
  - Is an approved management activity under maintaining approved cover provisions
  - No cost shares for routine grazing
  - Producer will be assessed a payment reduction



# Routine – Incidental Grazing

- Eligible Practices:
  - CP8A – grassed waterway
  - CP15A – grass strips on terrace
  - CP21 – riparian filter strip

# Routine – Incidental Grazing

- General Provisions:
  - Grazing is incidental to gleaning crop residue, or before harvest of small grain
  - Grazing occurs after harvesting crops from surrounding fields, or during dormant period of small grain intended for harvest



# Routine – Incidental Grazing

- Example:

- John has a sod waterway enrolled in CRP located between two wheat fields
- It's customary in her state to graze the wheat fields during the winter and early spring before harvesting the wheat
- John's livestock may graze the sod waterway while grazing the wheat fields provided the livestock are removed before the primary nesting season and the wheat is harvested for grain



# Routine – Incidental Grazing

- General Provisions:
  - Acreage may not be grazed during the primary nesting season
  - Assess a 25 percent payment reduction

# State Technical Committee

- Items under consideration:
  - For CRP contracts approved on or after September 26, 2006 to February 6, 2014, change the CRP managed haying/harvesting frequency from once every five years, to once every three years.
  - For CRP contracts approved on or after September 26, 2006 to February 6, 2014, change the CRP managed grazing frequency from once every five years to once every other year.

# State Technical Committee

- If the haying/grazing frequencies are changed for those contracts, each Conservation Plan of Operations will need to be modified to incorporate such changes.
  - This means NRCS or TSP will need to modify the CPO
  - The CRP participant(s) will need to sign the CPO
  - The SCD and FSA will need to approve the modified CPO.