

# Haying, grazing OK'd for 13 additional counties

An announcement early today by the U.S. Farm Service Agency stated that an additional 13 counties have been added to those approved for emergency haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acreage.

Only Marshall County, whose seat is Marysville, has not requested the authorization.

Emergency haying is allowed through Aug. 15. Emergency grazing in approved counties is allowed through Sept. 30.

Emergency haying and grazing is not allowed on the same acreage, and although emergency use of land helps producers, in this drought situation, it may not be enough to provide adequate relief and food sources for livestock.

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association reports however, that this may not be enough.

"KCA received not one or two but several calls from producers around the state, said the association's Executive Director Brandy Carter. "Most of the calls were the same conversation. Producers

do not have enough hay or good pasture land for their cattle. Farmers are worried about their crops. Folks are already selling some of their livestock. They can't find enough hay to buy. It is just a bad situation all around, and producers are looking to KCA for help. That is what we are here for, and that is what we are doing."

According to Farm Service, a number of types of acreage are eligible for either emergency haying or grazing (not both on the same land).

What the cattlemen are concerned about however, is that acreage designated as rare and declining habitat, while released for emergency grazing, has not been authorized for haying.

Lee Robbins, Woodson County cattleman and former Kansas Cattlemen president talked about the need for hay. "Due to the drought, that's possibly the worst we have seen in history, the need for forage is pertinent and immediate. Much of the CP-25 can't even be grazed because it doesn't have a water

source. It also needs to be opened up for haying."

With several hundred thousands of Kansas acres enrolled in that program, keeping that acreage from being hayed is a tremendous detriment to producers, according to the association.

Farm Service has told the association that rare and declining habitat has never been opened for haying. In 2008, the National Wildlife Federation filed suit against the Department of Agriculture for opening up Conservation Reserve land for critical feed use. In the end, the judge ordered a compromise aimed at relieving the hardships of livestock producers and taking into consideration the environmental impact of haying and grazing. Opening up the rare and declining habitat to allow haying may create a situation that occurred in 2008.

The cattlemen continue to work with legislators and state agencies to bring relief to producers.

## Lawns suffering from dry conditions

For the third year in a row, weather is pounding Kansas lawns. Even pampered tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass lawns are looking spotty or fading to a ripe-wheat hue.

"How serious that is depends on how healthy your lawn is and how prepared your turf was for triple-digit heat with little to no rain," said Rodney St. John, turfgrass horticulturist for K-State Research and Extension.

Without regular watering, fescue and bluegrass lawns normally go dormant during August's hot, dry weather, St. John said. Healthy ones can easily survive a month without rain or irrigation.

But this isn't a "normal" year. Lawns may be dead or dying, or entering dormancy early.

"You can assess that by pulling up individual turf plants and

checking the crown — the area between the leaves and roots," St. John said. "If the crown's hard, not papery and dry, the plant's still alive."

For the growing season, the rule of thumb is to ensure fescue and bluegrass get about an inch of water per week, he said. Doing less or more can damage roots.

The interval between drinks should be longer during the cool weather of early spring and late fall, gradually shifting toward or away from summer's schedule. And the time between irrigation applications should shrink to every three to four days during triple-digit heat.

"Adapting the schedule for this year's weather has been a challenge. Spring arrived early and dry. Summer blasted in with a heat wave," St. John said. "At this

point in the game, if your lawn is alive but brown, getting it to green up again will be almost impossible until cooler temperatures return."

Any green, he added, can be a reason to keep watering. Or you might decide to save water and let their lawn go totally dormant.

"Just don't encourage dormancy by cutting off the water 'cold turkey,'" St. John said. "Extend the weekly interval several days at a time until you're on a two-week watering schedule. That will help keep the plant crowns alive until fall weather arrives."

The turf specialist said he's advising lawn owners to be prepared to do some reseeding or sodding this fall.

"No matter the management approach you take now," St. John said, "the forecast is for continued hot, dry weather."

## Kansas veterans now being honored with a chance to see war memorials

Twenty eight Kansas veterans plan to depart from the Kansas City and Wichita airports on Tuesday, July 31, to travel to Washington to visit the war memorials erected to honor their service and sacrifices to our country.

During the three-day trip they will visit the World War II Memorial, Korean Memorial and Vietnam Memorial Wall. In addition they plan to see museums, the Iwo Jima Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown.

The trip is made possible by the newest hub of the Honor

Flight Network, Kansas Honor Flight Inc. The mission of Honor Flight is to transport America's veterans to visit the memorials at no cost, with priority to World War II veterans, then Korean War veterans followed by Vietnam War veterans, honoring them both in a similar manner. Guardians, who pay their own travel expenses, accompany each veteran to ensure safe travel.

Kansas Honor Flight President Mike VanCampen and his wife Connie will be the leaders for this first group.

"Although we've been honored to have traveled on several

of these trips with our veterans," said VanCampen, "we are especially excited to be able to travel on this first trip of our newly organized hub."

With continued contributions the organization hopes to make additional trips this year.

For information about Kansas Honor Flight, Inc. or the upcoming trip, contact Mike VanCampen at mvancamp@scetelcom.net or (620) 546-2400. Tax deductible contributions may be sent to Kansas Honor Flights, Box 2371, Hutchinson, Kan., 67504.

## Woodchucks stealing flags

HUDSON, N.Y. — Who would steal flags from Civil War graves?

Authorities in Hudson, N.Y., believe they have found the culprit in a rash of cemetery flag thefts: woodchucks.

Mayor Bill Hallenbeck tells the *Register-Star* (bit.ly/OlezTJ) that police used cameras and confirmed that the flags were in the woodchucks' burrows.

Around 75 flags were reported missing from Civil War graves in the days leading up to and following Independence Day.

Hallenbeck said he was glad the culprit wasn't a human resident. He said some flags are now coated with a substance that attracts woodchucks.

Woodchucks are also known as groundhogs. They are excellent burrowers.

Hudson is a city of about 7,000 on the shore of the Hudson River 30 miles south of Albany.

## Cheyenne County Fair

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Marty Church - 785-332-4622

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More information or rules contact:

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## Dr. John Dygert Joins Family Center for Health Care

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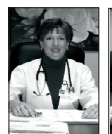
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