



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

# 2009 Grassland Reserve Program

photo: Rolf Nussbaumer

## Talking Points - July 2009

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) assists landowners and operators in protecting grazing uses and other related conservation values by restoring and conserving eligible grassland and certain other lands through rental contracts and easements. GRP emphasizes:

- 1) Supporting grazing operations;
- 2) Maintaining and improving plant and animal biodiversity;
- 3) Protecting grasslands and shrublands from the threat of conversion to uses other than grazing.

For FY 2009, the primary focus of the Grasslands Reserve Program is the drought-stricken areas of central and southern Texas. Eligibility criteria for the program are:

- 1) Must remove all cattle from proposed land within 30 days of contract acceptance.
- 2) NRCS will develop a conservation plan that includes the practice Prescribed Grazing Use which involves livestock exclusion.
- 3) Livestock exclusion will be required as long as the drought persists and until the recovering grasses and forbs have been allowed one full growing season.
- 4) After grasses and forbs have fully recovered, grazing will be allowed according to a planned grazing system developed by NRCS.
- 5) Program Options for GRP include:
  - a) Rental Agreements for 10, 15 or 20 years
  - b) Permanent Easement
- 6) Rental rates are 75% of the published value. See rental rates.
- 7) Rental agreements allow cost share for grazing improvements through GRP and/or EQIP.
- 8) Grazing improvements can include cross fencing, stock tanks, wells for livestock water, brush management, range/pasture planting, and critical area planting.
- 9) Applications for the program are available at local USDA Service Centers in NRCS and FSA offices.
- 10) Program sign-up period is continuous.

More information can be found on the programs section of the NRCS Texas Web site at [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov).