Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008

Title II, Subtitle E—Farmland Protection and Grassland Reserve

- Enrollment Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) authority extended through September 30, 2012.
- Enrollment authority set at an additional 1,220,000 acres through 2012.
- Of the total amount of funds expended under the program the Secretary shall use, to the extent practicable 40 percent for rental contacts; and 60 percent for easements.
- Removes the 40 acre minimum acreage requirement.
- Removes the 30 year rental contract and easement enrollment option.
- Creates a new enrollment priority for expiring CRP acres as long as they meet certain eligibility requirements.
- Creates a limit on the amount of expiring CRP that can be enrolled in GRP that must be tracked.
- Provides a requirement for the owner or operator to implement a grazing management plan.
- Permits fire presuppression and additional grazing-related activities.
- Removes the prohibition on breaking the soil.
- Creates a payment limitation for rental and cost-share payments.
- Changes the limit on cost-share payments from 90 percent to 50.
- Provides authority for the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities for those entities to purchase, own, enforce, and monitor easements.

June 8, 2008