

#### **USDA Announces Change to Haying and Grazing Date**

**Farmers who planted cover crops on prevented plant acres will be permitted to hay, graze or chop those fields earlier than November this year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today. USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) adjusted the 2019 final haying and grazing date from November 1 to September 1 to help farmers who were prevented from planting because of flooding and excess rainfall this spring.**

**"I thank USDA for recognizing the impact the flooding and excess rainfall have had on farmers this spring," said Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Mike Beam. "This adjustment will provide a new opportunity for some producers who are seeking alternatives in response to prevented planting because of excess moisture."**

**RMA has also determined that silage, haylage and baleage should be treated in the same manner as haying and grazing this year. Producers can hay, graze or cut cover crops for silage, haylage or baleage on prevented plant acres on or after September 1 and still maintain eligibility for their full 2019 prevented planting indemnity.**

**"We made this one-year adjustment to help farmers with the tough decisions they are facing this year," said Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Bill Northey. "This change will make good stewardship of the land easier to accomplish while also providing an opportunity to ensure quality forage is available for livestock this fall."**

#### **Other USDA Programs**

**Other USDA agencies are also assisting producers with delayed or prevented planting. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is extending the deadline to report prevented plant acres in select counties, and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is holding special sign-ups for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program in certain states to help with planting cover crops on impacted lands. Contact your local [FSA and NRCS offices](#) to learn more.**

#### **Resources**

**USDA Risk Management Agency: [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov)**

**USDA Farm Service Agency: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)**

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)**

