

## Ravalli County Commissioners Office

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**From:** Cole, Jennifer - FSA, Bozeman, MT <Jennifer.Cole@mt.usda.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 30, 2015 1:19 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners Office  
**Cc:** Nelson, Bruce - FSA, Bozeman, MT; Anderson, Curtis - FSA, Hamilton, MT; Edwards, Michelle - FSA, Helena MT; mjsmith@mt.gov; Erik S. Hoover  
**Subject:** USDA Farm Service Agency Notification to County Commission  
**Attachments:** 20150729\_FSA-LFP-Letter-RavalliCountyCommissioners.pdf; USDA-FSA-Letter-to-Counties-Attachments.pdf

Dear Ravalli County Commissioners,

Please see letter and attachment from U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency State Executive Director Bruce Nelson regarding notification of the 2015 Livestock Forage Disaster Program and the USDA natural disaster designation in your county. Hard copy correspondence is in the mail.

Contact FSA with any questions. Thank you.

Jennifer (Perez) Cole  
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Farm Service Agency (FSA) - Montana State Office  
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United States Department of Agriculture

July 30, 2015

Ravalli County Commissioners  
215 S 4Th St Ste A, County Courthouse  
Hamilton, MT 59840-2703

Dear County Commissioners:

This letter is to inform you of programs from USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) that have triggered due to drought conditions affecting agricultural producers in your county.

This month, FSA announced that the 2015 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) has triggered eligibility in 15 Montana counties based on the U.S. Drought Monitor report released on July 7. Those counties are: **Beaverhead, Deer Lodge, Flathead, Glacier, Granite, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Pondera, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders and Silver Bow.** LFP compensates livestock producers who suffered grazing losses due to a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period. All 15 counties have met the extreme drought (D3) criteria so qualifying livestock producers who own or lease grazing land or pastureland physically located in eligible counties will be eligible for three monthly payments. Producers must complete an application and provide supporting documentation for 2015 losses by Feb. 1, 2016.

All 15 counties were also designated by USDA as natural disaster areas due to drought on July 15, 2015. Producers have eight months from the date of the designation to apply for an emergency loan with FSA. If you experience other types of disaster occurrences aside from drought that affect agricultural property in your county, the county commission must submit a written request to the Governor's Office identifying the effects of the production and physical losses to farm and ranch property.

For questions about any FSA programs and to begin the LFP enrollment process, agricultural producers should contact their local county office. Attached are a Montana FSA office directory, factsheet on LFP and the designation process and the July 15, 2015 disaster designation notification.

Contact me with any questions about the disaster designation process at 406.587.6872 or [bruce.nelson@mt.usda.gov](mailto:bruce.nelson@mt.usda.gov) or by mail at P.O. Box 670, Bozeman, MT, 59771.

Sincerely,

BRUCE NELSON  
State Executive Director  
USDA Farm Service Agency

Cc: Local Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator, Governor's Office

Enclosure: Directory of FSA Offices, Livestock Forage Disaster Program & Disaster Designation Factsheets

Farm Service Agency | Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services  
Montana FSA State Office  
P.O. Box 670, Bozeman, MT 59714  
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