



July 30, 2015

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

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Ravalli County Commissioners  

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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  
Phone: 406.587.6872 | Fax: 855.546.0264 | Website: [www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt)



## USDA Farm Service Agency - Montana Office Directory

Montana FSA State Office | P.O. Box 670 | Bozeman, MT 59771 | State Executive Director Bruce Nelson  
 Phone: 406.587.6872 Fax: 855.546.0264 Web: [www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt)

FSA Service Center Offices (Listed by County/Reservation)		Phone #	Fax #
Beaverhead	420 Barrett Street, Dillon, MT 59725	406/683-3830	855/556-1258
Big Horn, Crow Reservation, Northern Cheyenne Reservation	724 West Third, Hardin, MT 59034	406/665-3442	855/556-1457
Blaine, Fort Belknap Reservation	PO Box 307, 228 Ohio, Chinook, MT 59523	406/357-2320	855/546-0388
Broadwater	415 South Front Street, Townsend, MT 59644	406/266-4253	855/575-2506
Carbon	PO Box 509, 606 W Front Street, Joliet, MT 59041-0136	406/962-3300	855/558-5641
Carter	PO Box 5, 308 S. Mormon Ave., Ekalaka, MT 59324	406/775-6355	855/556-1271
Cascade	#12 Third St NW, Suite 300, Great Falls, MT 59404	406/727-7580	866/609-8434
Chouteau	PO Box 309, 1210 25th Street, Fort Benton, MT 59442-0309	406/622-5401	855/556-1450
Custer	3120 Valley Drive East, Miles City, MT 59301-5599	406/232-7905	855/558-5665
Daniels	131 B Highway 5 East, Scobey, MT 59263	406/487-5366	855/575-2501
Dawson	102 Fir Street, Glendive, MT 59330-3196	406/377-5566	855/556-1455
Deer Lodge	1002 Hollenback Road, Suite B, Deer Lodge, MT 59722	406/846-2337	855-547-5750
Fallon	PO Box 1516, 141 South 4th Street West, Baker, MT 59313-1516	406/778-2238	855-510-7029
Fergus	211 McKinley St., Suite 2, Lewistown, MT 59457	406/538-3489	855/558-5654
Flathead	133 Interstate LN, Kalispell, MT 59901-2877	406/752-4242	855/558-5653
Gallatin	3710 W. Fallon St. Ste. D, Bozeman, MT 59718-6433	406/522-4000	855/546-0262
Garfield	PO Box 329, 307 Main St., Jordan, MT 59337	406/557-2740	855/558-5652
Glacier, Blackfeet Reservation	1 3rd St. NE, Cut Bank, MT 59427	406/873-5618	855/547-5749
Golden Valley	PO Box 5, 206 First Street North, Ryegate, MT 59074	406/568-2221	855/575-2500
Granite	1002 Hollenback Road, Suite B, Deer Lodge, MT 59722	406/846-2337	855-547-5750
Hill, Rocky Boy's Reservation	Hill Co. FSA Office, 206 25 <sup>th</sup> Ave W. Suite #2, Havre MT 59501	406/265-6792	855/556-1459
Jefferson	3 Whitetail Road, Whitehall, MT 59759-9635	406/287-3262	855/576-2669
Judith Basin	121 Central Avenue, Stanford, MT 59479	406/566-2218	855/575-2504
Lake, Flathead Reservation	64352 US Highway 93, Ronan, MT 59864-8738	406/676-2811	855/575-2498
Lewis and Clark	790 Colleen Street, Helena, MT 59601	406/449-5277	855/558-5608
Liberty	PO Box 669, 18 Main Street, Chester, MT 59522-0669	406/759-5129	855/546-0386

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## Montana FSA Office Directory page 2 of 2 \*revised 2/6/2015

County/ Reservation:	FSA Office Address:	Phone #	Fax #
Lincoln	133 Interstate LN, Kalispell, MT 59901-2877	406/752-4242	855/558-5653
McCone	PO Box 187, 104 10th Street, Circle, MT 59215-0187	406/485-2744	855/546-0416
Madison	3 Whitetail Road, Whitehall, MT 59759-9635	406/287-3262	855/576-2669
Meagher	PO Box J, 4147 Highway 89, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645	406/547-3521	855/576-2402
Mineral	3550 Mullan Road, Suite 106, Missoula, MT 59808-5125	406/829-3395	855/558-5666
Missoula	3550 Mullan Road, Suite 106, Missoula, MT 59808-5125	406/829-3395	855/558-5666
Musselshell	109 Railroad Ave. East, Roundup, MT 59072	406/323-2067	855/575-2499
Park	5242 Hwy. 89 South, Livingston, MT 59047-9611	406/222-0212	855/558-5656
Petroleum	211 McKinley St., Suite 2, Lewistown, MT 59457	406/538-3489	855/558-5654
Phillips, Fort Belknap Reservation	1120 US Hwy 191 S, Suite 2, Malta, MT 59538	406/654-1333	855/558-5661
Pondera	406 North Main, Conrad, MT 59425-2706	406/278-7611	855/547-5499
Powder River	PO Box 9, 114 N. Lincoln Ave., Broadus, MT 59317	406/436-2321	855/546-0273
Powell	1002 Hollenback Road, Suite B, Deer Lodge, MT 59722	406/846-2337	855-547-5750
Prairie	PO Box 626, 409 East Spring, Terry, MT 59349	406/635-5381	855/575-2505
Ravalli	1709 North First Street, Hamilton, MT 59840-3357	406/363-1444	855/556-1456
Richland	2745 West Holly Street, Sidney, MT 59270	406/433-2103	855/575-2503
Roosevelt, Fort Peck Reservation	PO Box 519, 508 6th St. E, Culbertson, MT 59218-0519	406/787-6262	855/547-5748
Rosebud, Northern Cheyenne Res.	PO Box 6, 270 South Prospect, Forsyth, MT 59327-0006	406/346-7333	855/556-1448
Sanders	PO Box 639, 7487 MT Highway 200, Plains, MT 59859	406/826-3751	855/558-5669
Sheridan,	119 North Jackson, Plentywood, MT 59254	406/765-1550	855/575-2496
Silver Bow	3 Whitetail Road, Whitehall, MT 59759-9635	406/287-3262	855/576-2669
Stillwater	334 North 9th Street, Columbus, MT 59019	406/322-5348	855/546-0421
Sweet Grass	PO Box 610, 225 Big Timber Loop Rd., Big Timber, MT 59011	406/932-5159	855/546-0258
Teton	1102 Main Ave. North, Suite 2, Choteau, MT 59422-0836	406/466-5351	855/546-0390
Toole	1125 Oilfield Avenue, Shelby, MT 59474	406/434-5234	855/575-2502
Treasure	PO Box 6, 270 South Prospect, Forsyth, MT 59327-0006	406/346-7333	855/556-1448
Valley, Fort Peck Reservation	54062 US Hwy. 2, Suite 1, Glasgow, MT 59230-2846	406/228-4321	855/556-1454
Wheatland	PO Box 669, 809 Second Ave., NW, Harlowton, MT 59036-0669	406/632-5622	855/556-1458
Wibaux	502 2nd Ave., NW Wibaux, MT 59353-9040	406/796-2221	855/576-2670
Yellowstone	1629 Ave. D, Bldg. A, Suite 2, Billings, MT 59102-3042	406/657-6135	855/546-0259

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### Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

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#### OVERVIEW

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) makes the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing. The grazing losses must be due to a qualifying drought condition during the normal grazing period for the county. LFP also provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses on rangeland managed by a federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire.

The grazing losses must have occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

LFP is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

#### ELIGIBLE COUNTIES FOR DROUGHT

An eligible livestock producer that owns or leases grazing land or pastureland physically located in a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a:

- D2 (severe drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least eight consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to one monthly payment;
- D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county at any time during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to three monthly payments;
- D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least four weeks during the normal grazing period or is rated a D4

(exceptional drought) intensity at any time during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to four monthly payments;

- D4 (exceptional drought) in a county for four weeks (not necessarily four consecutive weeks) during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to five monthly payments.

A map of eligible counties for LFP drought may be found at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

#### ELIGIBLE LIVESTOCK

Eligible livestock types under LFP include alpacas, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep or swine that have been or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land or pastureland:

- During the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land or pastureland for the county or;
- When the federal agency excluded the livestock producer from grazing the normally permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to fire.

Eligible livestock must:

- Have been owned, purchased or entered into a contract to purchase during the 60 days prior to the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire condition;
- Have been held by a contract grower or sold or otherwise disposed of due to a qualifying drought condition during the current production year or one or both of the two production years immediately preceding the current production year;
- Have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the eligible drought or fire condition;
- Not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a

## FACT SHEET

### Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

March 2015

farming operation. Such excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show;

- Not have been livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot on the beginning date of the qualifying drought or fire as part of the normal business operation of the producer.

### ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS

To be eligible for LFP, producers must:

- Own, cash or share lease, or be a contract grower of covered livestock during the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire;
- Provide pastureland or grazing land for covered livestock, including cash-rented pastureland or grazing land that is either:
  - Physically located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county, or;
  - Rangeland managed by a federal agency for which the otherwise eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normally permitted livestock because of a qualifying fire.
- Certify that they have suffered a grazing loss because of a qualifying drought or fire;
- Timely file an acreage report for all grazing land for which a loss of grazing is being claimed.

### PAYMENTS

FSA will calculate LFP payments for an eligible livestock producer for grazing losses because of a qualifying drought equal to 1, 3, 4 or 5 times the LFP monthly payment rate. The LFP monthly payment rate for drought is equal to 60 percent of the lesser of the monthly feed cost:

- For all covered livestock owned or leased by the eligible livestock producer;
- Calculated by using the normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing land of the eligible livestock producer.

Total LFP payments to an eligible livestock producer in a calendar year for grazing losses will not exceed five monthly payments for the same livestock.

In the case of an eligible livestock producer who sold or otherwise disposed of livestock because of drought conditions in one or both of the two previous production years immediately preceding the current production year, the payment rate will equal 80 percent of the monthly payment rate.

FSA will calculate LFP payments for eligible livestock producers for losses suffered because of a qualifying fire on federally managed rangeland for which the producer is prohibited from grazing the normally permitted livestock. The payment begins on the first day the permitted livestock are prohibited from grazing the eligible rangeland and ending on the earlier of the last day of the federal lease of the eligible livestock producer or the day that would make the period a 180 calendar day period. The payment rate is 50 percent of the monthly feed cost for the number of days the producer is prohibited from grazing the managed rangeland because of a qualifying fire, not to exceed 180 calendar days.

### PAYMENT LIMITATION

For 2012 and subsequent program years, no person or legal entity, excluding a joint venture or general partnership, may receive directly or indirectly, more than \$125,000 total in payments under LFP, ELAP, and LIP combined.

For 2011, no person or legal entity, excluding a joint venture or general partnership, may receive directly or indirectly more than \$125,000 total in the 2011 program year in payments under the LFP, ELAP, LIP, and Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program, when at least \$25,000 of such total 2011 program payments is from LFP or LIP, for losses from Oct. 1, 2011, through Dec. 31, 2011.

## FACT SHEET

### Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

March 2015

In applying the limitation on average adjusted gross income (AGI), an individual or legal entity is ineligible for payment under LFP if the individual's or legal entity's average AGI exceeds \$900,000.

Direct attribution provisions apply to LFP for 2011 and subsequent years. Under direct attribution, any payment to a legal entity also will be considered for payment limitation purposes to be a payment to persons or legal entities with an interest in the legal entity or in a sub-entity.

#### SIGN-UP

For grazing losses that occurred between Oct. 1, 2011 through Dec. 31, 2014, sign-up began April 15, 2014, and ended Jan. 30, 2015. For 2015 and subsequent calendar years, producers must provide a completed application for payment and required supporting documentation to their FSA office within 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing loss occurred.

The producer should include a copy of the grower contract if the producer is a contract grower and any other supporting documents required for determining eligibility. Supporting documents must show evidence of loss, current physical location of livestock in inventory, evidence that grazing land or pastureland is owned or leased and evidence that if the loss of grazing was due to a fire that the producer was prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a fire.

#### PAYMENTS ON BEHALF OF DECEASED PRODUCERS

Payments may be made for eligible losses suffered by an eligible producer who is now deceased or for a dissolved entity if a currently authorized representative signs the application for payment. Proof of authority to sign for a deceased individual or dissolved entity must be provided. If a producer is a dissolved entity, all former members at the time of dissolution or their duly authorized representative(s) must sign the application for payment.

FSA will use data furnished by the applicant to determine eligibility for program benefits. Furnishing the data is voluntary; however, without all required data, program benefits will not be approved or provided.

The table on page 4 provides the monthly payment rate per head by covered livestock category.

#### MORE INFORMATION

To find more information about FSA programs, contact your local FSA office or USDA Service Center, or visit FSA online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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*If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).*

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**FACT SHEET****Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)**

March 2015

**Livestock Payment Rates**

Kind	Type	Weight Range	Payment Rate Per Head				
			2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Beef	Adult	Bulls, Cows	\$34.57	\$51.81	\$57.27	\$52.56	\$40.79
	Non-adult	500 pounds or more	\$25.93	\$38.86	\$42.96	\$39.42	\$30.59
Dairy	Adult	Bulls, Cows	\$89.89	\$134.71	\$148.90	\$136.66	\$106.05
	Non-adult	500 pounds or more	\$25.93	\$38.86	\$42.96	\$39.42	\$30.59
Buffalo/Beefalo	Adult	Bulls, Cows	\$34.57	\$51.81	\$57.27	\$52.56	\$40.79
	Non-adult	500 pounds or more	\$25.93	\$38.86	\$42.96	\$39.42	\$30.59
Sheep	All		\$8.64	\$12.96	\$14.32	\$13.14	\$10.20
Goats	All		\$8.64	\$12.96	\$14.32	\$13.14	\$10.20
Deer	All		\$8.64	\$12.96	\$14.32	\$13.14	\$10.20
Equine	All		\$25.58	\$38.34	\$42.38	\$38.90	\$30.18
Swine		Less than 45 pounds	\$1.03	\$1.55	\$1.72	\$1.56	\$1.21
		45 to 124 pounds	\$2.41	\$3.63	\$4.01	\$3.67	\$2.85
		125 to 234 pounds	\$4.15	\$6.22	\$6.87	\$6.31	\$4.90
	Sow	235 pounds or more	\$14.18	\$21.24	\$23.48	\$21.56	\$16.73
	Boar	235 pounds or more	\$8.31	\$12.43	\$13.74	\$12.63	\$9.80
Elk		Less than 400 pounds	\$7.61	\$11.40	\$12.60	\$11.58	\$8.98
		400 to 799 pounds	\$14.18	\$21.24	\$23.48	\$21.56	\$16.73
		800 pounds or more	\$18.67	\$27.98	\$30.93	\$28.39	\$22.03
Poultry		Less than 3 pounds	\$0.22	\$0.33	\$0.36	\$0.33	\$0.26
		3 to 7.9 pounds	\$0.44	\$0.65	\$0.72	\$0.66	\$0.51
		8 pounds or more	\$0.99	\$1.48	\$1.64	\$1.50	\$1.17
Reindeer		All	\$7.61	\$11.40	\$12.60	\$11.58	\$8.98
Alpacas		All	\$28.48	\$42.68	\$47.18	\$43.30	\$33.60
Emus		All	\$17.69	\$26.52	\$29.31	\$26.90	\$20.87
Llamas		All	\$12.62	\$18.91	\$20.90	\$19.18	\$14.89



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

# News Release

For Immediate Release: July 14, 2015

Media Contact:

Jennifer Cole

USDA Montana Farm Service Agency

(406) 587-6786

[jennifer.cole@mt.usda.gov](mailto:jennifer.cole@mt.usda.gov)

## Montana FSA: Livestock Forage Disaster Program Triggered in 15 Montana Counties

(BOZEMAN, Mont., - July 14, 2015) - Montana Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Bruce Nelson announced today that the 2015 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) triggered eligibility in 15 Montana counties based on the U.S. Drought Monitor report released on July 9, 2015.

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses due to a qualifying drought or fire on federally managed land. Eligible producers must own or lease grazing land physically located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county.

The following counties met the extreme drought (D3) criteria; qualifying producers with land in these counties will be eligible for three monthly payments: Beaverhead, Deer Lodge, Flathead, Glacier, Granite, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Pondera, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders and Silver Bow.

"Montana livestock producers who own or lease grazing land or pastureland physically located in these 15 counties should contact their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to begin the enrollment process," said Nelson. "This is an important program for livestock producers affected by the drought. LFP provided almost \$60 million in disaster relief to more than 4,100 Montana livestock producers for the 2012 and 2013 crop years."

Producers must complete an application and provide supporting documentation for 2015 losses by Jan. 30, 2016.

For more information, contact your local FSA office and visit Montana FSA online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt).

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### Emergency Disaster Designation and Declaration Process

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#### OVERVIEW

Agriculture-related disasters and disaster designations are quite common. Many counties in the United States have been designated as disaster areas in the past several years, even in years of record crop production.

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to designate counties as disaster areas to make emergency loans (EM) available to producers suffering losses in those counties and in counties that are contiguous to a designated county. In addition to EM eligibility, other emergency assistance programs, such as FSA disaster assistance programs, have historically used disaster designations as an eligibility trigger.

#### TYPES OF DISASTER DESIGNATIONS

FSA administers four types of disaster designations:

- USDA Secretarial disaster designation;
- Presidential major disaster and Presidential emergency declarations;
- FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notification; and
- Quarantine designation by the Secretary under the Plant Protection Act or animal quarantine laws.

USDA Secretarial disaster designations must be requested of the Secretary of Agriculture by a governor or the governor's authorized representative, by an Indian Tribal Council leader, or by an FSA State Executive Director (SED). The Secretarial disaster designation is the most widely used and its process is the most complicated of the four. An expedited process for drought was introduced in 2012. The general process and the expedited process are described in further detail under "Secretarial Disaster Designation Process."

Presidential major disaster declarations, which must be requested of the President by a governor, are administered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A Presidential major disaster declaration can be made within days or hours of the initial request. FEMA immediately notifies FSA of the primary counties named in a Presidential declaration.

An FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notification (APLN) is for physical losses only, such as a building destroyed by a tornado. Livestock-related losses are considered physical losses. An APLN is requested of FSA's Administrator by an FSA SED.

A quarantine designation is requested of the Secretary of Agriculture by an FSA SED. A quarantine designation authorizes EM loans for production and physical losses resulting from quarantine.

#### WHAT DOES A DISASTER DESIGNATION SPECIFY?

A disaster designation specifies:

- The disaster that resulted in the designation;
- The incident period (dates) of that disaster;
- The specific counties included in the designation.

#### THE SECRETARIAL DISASTER DESIGNATION PROCESS

In 2012, USDA streamlined the Secretarial disaster declaration process to reduce paperwork and documentation requirements at the local FSA level, making the process more efficient and timely for agricultural producers. The program improvements included Fast Track Secretarial disaster designations for severe drought, which provide for a nearly automatic designation when, during the growing season, any portion of a county meets the D2 (Severe Drought) drought intensity value for eight consecutive weeks or a higher

# FACT SHEET

## Emergency Disaster Declarations and Designations

June 2015

drought intensity value for any length of time as reported in the U.S. Drought Monitor (<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>).

For all other natural disaster occurrences, including drought conditions that do not trigger a Fast Track designation, the county must have a 30 percent production loss of at least one crop or a determination must be made by surveying producers that other lending institutions will not be able to provide emergency financing. The process for those Secretarial disaster designations is described below.

### PROCESS

#### *STEP 1*

The governor, Indian Tribal Council leader, or FSA SED makes a request in writing to the Secretary of Agriculture within three months of the ending date of the disaster

#### *STEP 2*

FSA county offices assemble required agricultural loss information for the Loss Assessment Report (LAR).

#### *STEP 3*

The County Emergency Board (CEB) reviews the LAR and makes a recommendation to approve, defer, or reject the request.

#### *STEP 4*

The State Emergency Board (SEB) reviews the request and the CEB's recommendation. The SEB's recommendation is submitted to FSA's National Headquarters (NHQ).

#### *STEP 5*

FSA NHQ reviews the loss information on the LAR, determines eligibility, and prepares a package, including the letter of approval or disapproval, to be signed by the Secretary.

### ELIGIBLE NATURAL DISASTERS

Eligible natural disasters are disasters in which damaging weather conditions or other adverse natural occurrence phenomena have substantially affected farmers causing severe production losses. Eligible natural disaster conditions include drought, flooding, excessive rain and humidity, severe storms, lightning, hail, mudslides and landslides, snow, ice, blizzards, frost, freeze, below-normal temperatures, wind, tornadoes, hurricanes, typhoons, tropical storms, fire, excessive heat, volcanoes, pests and disease.

### FSA PROGRAMS INITIATED BY DESIGNATIONS AND/OR DECLARATIONS

All four types of designation, (Secretarial disaster designations, Presidential disaster declarations, APLNs, and quarantine designations) immediately trigger the availability of low-interest FSA EM loans to eligible producers in all primary and contiguous counties. More information about EM loans is available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/emergency-farm-loans/index>.

FSA borrowers located in designated disaster areas or contiguous counties, who are unable to make their scheduled payments on any debt, may be authorized to have certain set asides. Under Section 331A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, FSA is authorized to consider setting aside certain payments owed by FSA borrowers to allow the operation to continue.

Additional disaster assistance requiring a designation may also be provided by new programs in the future.

### REGULATION GOVERNING DISASTER DESIGNATION PROCESS

The regulation governing disaster designations is at 7 CFR Part 759. The rule was published in the Federal Register on July 13, 2012, at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-07-13/html/2012-17137.htm>.

## FACT SHEET

### Emergency Disaster Declarations and Designations

June 2015

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#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on FSA disaster programs, visit <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or visit your local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

July 15, 2015

The Honorable Steve Bullock  
Governor  
State of Montana  
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Governor Bullock:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating 15 Montana counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought. The primary counties included under this designation are:

Beaverhead	Glacier	Lewis And Clark	Missoula	Ravalli
Deer Lodge	Granite	Lincoln	Pondera	Sanders
Flathead	Lake	Mineral	Powell	Silver Bow

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>), these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of: (1) D2 (Drought-Severe) for 8 or more consecutive weeks; or (2) D3 (Drought-Extreme) or D4 (Drought-Exceptional).

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, nine counties are named as contiguous disaster counties. The contiguous counties included under this designation are:

Broadwater	Jefferson	Meagher
Cascade	Liberty	Teton
Chouteau	Madison	Toole

Also, in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, counties in an adjacent State are named as contiguous disaster areas. That State, counties, and numbers are:

**Contiguous counties in an Adjacent State:**

Idaho	(8)		
Bonner	Clark	Fremont	Lemhi
Boundary	Clearwater	Idaho	Shoshone

The Honorable Steve Bullock  
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A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. FSA considers each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm, and the security and repayment ability of the operator.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary