



Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

May 2, 2022

The Honorable Greg Gianforte
Governor
State of Montana
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Governor Gianforte:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating 29 Montana counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought.

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, additional areas of your state and adjacent states are named as contiguous disaster counties. Enclosed you will find documentation that provides a detailed list of all primary and contiguous counties impacted by this disaster.

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

Enclosure

Disaster Designation Areas for Montana and Contiguous States

Primary Counties:

Montana	(29)		
Beaverhead	Golden Valley	Powder River	
Big Horn	Jefferson	Richland	
Blaine	Lewis and Clark	Roosevelt	
Broadwater	Liberty	Rosebud	
Carbon	McCone	Sheridan	
Cascade	Madison	Stillwater	
Chouteau	Musselshell	Teton	
Daniels	Petroleum	Toole	
Fergus	Phillips	Valley	
Garfield	Pondera		

Contiguous Counties:

Montana	(20)			
Carter	Gallatin	Park	Sweet Grass	
Custer	Glacier	Powell	Treasure	
Dawson	Hill	Prairie	Wheatland	
Deer Lodge	Judith Basin	Ravalli	Wibaux	
Flathead	Meagher	Silver Bow	Yellowstone	

Contiguous Counties in Adjacent States:

Idaho	(3)		
Clark	Fremont	Lemhi	
North Dakota	(3)		
Divide	McKenzie	Williams	
Wyoming	(5)		
Big Horn	Crook	Sheridan	
Campbell	Park		