



News Release



For Immediate Release

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Secretarial Designations – Eligibility for Disaster Programs

Bozeman, MT – The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) received the announcement that 15 Montana counties were declared primary natural disaster areas during the period beginning Jan. 1, 2008 and continuing.

The following counties have received the disaster designation:

Broadwater	Fallon	Prairie
Big Horn	Gallatin	Richland
Custer	Golden Valley	Roosevelt
Daniels	Madison	Sheridan
Dawson	McCone	Wibaux

Contiguous counties include:

Beaverhead	Meagher	Silver Bow
Carter	Mineral	Stillwater
Carbon	Musselshell	Sweet Grass
Fergus	Park	Treasure
Garfield	Powder River	Valley
Jefferson	Rosebud	Wheatland
Lewis & Clark	Sanders	Yellowstone

The disaster designation has an important significance in those counties as it allows eligible producers within those 15 counties and contiguous counties to participate in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). SURE was one of the disaster programs created under the 2008 Farm Bill. It provides financial assistance for crop production and or quality losses due to a natural disaster. Signup for SURE is unknown at this time. Two triggers make the program available:

- A Secretarial Disaster designation **and** at least a 10 percent crop production loss on at least one crop of economic significance which is defined as a crop which is expected to contribute at least 5 percent of the farm’s income (Nationwide); or
- In the absence of a secretarial disaster declaration, farms in which the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm. Producers in counties that did not receive a secretarial declaration or contiguous county declaration have only this option available to qualify for SURE.

Sure requires that all crops in all counties in the nation be included on one application regardless if only one county received a secretarial declaration.

In addition, producers must have crop insurance or Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all crops excluding grazing lands. SURE does not pay for losses on crops intended for grazing.

For further information on SURE and the other disaster programs created under the 2008 Farm Bill, contact your local USDA Service Center or logon to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

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