

August 2015



## Fire Recovery Assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has multiple agencies that provide financial and/or technical assistance to help farmers, ranchers and rural landowners recover from natural disasters, such as wildfires. Listed below are USDA agencies and a brief overview of applicable programs. Funding for some programs are contingent on the on the annual enactment of Congressional appropriations legislation.

### Farm Service Agency (FSA)

- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):** Compensates producers for livestock death due to natural disasters. Compensation is based on roughly 75% of the national average price of the livestock by type and age. Report losses within 30 days.
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP):** Compensates livestock producers for a percentage of the pasture loss on private lands and mechanically harvested forage losses. ELAP also compensates honeybee producers for colony/hive losses and honeybee feed losses. Payments are subject to a national payment factor. Report losses within 30 days. Complete 2015 applications are due by Nov. 1.
- **Livestock Forage Disaster Program:** Compensates producers who suffer pasture or forage loss due to drought or who have federally managed grazing leases but are not allowed to graze the lease because of wildfire. Apply for 2015 LFP by Feb 1, 2016.
- **Emergency Loans:** Low interest loans to replace essential farm and ranch buildings and structures, make repairs or replace livestock or feed. Must meet disaster/emergency criteria.
- **Emergency haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres** is available in the following Montana counties: Cascade, Daniels, Glacier, Lake, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Pondera, Teton & Toole. The agency will not deduct CRP annual rental payments from contract holders volunteering their land. FSA approval is needed before commencement. Haying must be completed by Aug. 31; grazing by Sept. 30.
- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP):** FSA covers a portion of the cost to replace fence or

other conservation practices. This program is contingent on funding available.

- **Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP):** Provides payments to nonindustrial private forest land owners for emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster. This program is contingent on funding available.
- **Tree Assistance Program:** Provides financial assistance to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters. Forests are not eligible.
- **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP):** Provides compensation to producers who grow uninsurable crops and have purchased NAP coverage by the crop signup dates.
- For more information, visit <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>

### Risk Management Agency (RMA)

Provides insurance to farmers and ranchers who have previously enrolled in the subsidized multi-peril crop and livestock insurance programs.

### Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- **Conservation Technical Assistance:** NRCS is available to assist with site-specific questions and provide technical assistance for landowners as they begin to restore the landscape following a fire.
- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program:** Financial assistance may be available for deferred grazing, reseeding, fence repair, and water developments.
- **Emergency Watershed Protection Program:** Financial assistance may be available to conserve natural resources by relieving



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

imminent hazards to life and property caused by fires, floods and other natural disasters.

### **Rural Development (RD)**

- Single Family Housing: Direct low income Home Ownership Loans, Home Ownership Loan Guarantees, and Direct Home Repair loans and grants. Those whose property was destroyed, was severely damaged, or who have been displaced from a rental unit by the fire may receive priority hardship application processing.
- Multi-Family Housing: If a property was destroyed by the fire, Rural Development can issue a priority letter for next available Multi-Family Housing unit to affected residents. This is available only if a disaster is declared.
- Community Facilities: Low interest loans and grants for essential community facilities, such as fire equipment, community centers, city vehicles, food banks, day care facilities, etc.
- Water Environmental Programs: Low interest loans and grants for water and waste disposal systems and facilities including buildings, equipment, wells and pipe.

- Business & Cooperative Programs: Business loans through intermediaries and guaranteed business loans.
- Electric low-interest loans to rural utilities to finance electric infrastructure. Eligible entities would qualify for expedited loan processing.

### **Montana State University Extension**

- In addition to the USDA resources listed above, expertise and assistance on particular subjects (e.g. Re-seeding, Erosion & Flooding, Livestock, Salvage Logging and Reforestation) may be available through local Montana Extension offices, or, through the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN). To find contact information for your local county Extension office, or for information on topics of interest, those sites can be accessed at:
- MSU Extension: <http://msuextension.org/>
- MSU Extension Forestry: <http://www.msuextension.org/forestry/>
- MSU Extension Publications: <http://store.msuextension.org/>
- EDEN: <http://eden.lsu.edu/Pages/default.aspx>

## **USDA Agency Contacts:**

### **Farm Service Agency - State Office**

10 East Babcock  
Bozeman, MT  
406-587-6872

Or check this link for your [county office](#)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt)

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service - State Office**

10 East Babcock Street  
Federal Building, Room 443  
Bozeman, MT 59715-4704  
406-587-6811

Or check this link for your [local office](#).  
[www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov)

### **Forest Service – Northern Region 1 – Missoula Office**

(406) 329-3511

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/r1>

### **Rural Development - State Office**

2229 Boot Hill Court  
Bozeman, MT 59771  
406-585-2580

Or check this link for your [local office](#)  
[www.rd.usda.gov/mt](http://www.rd.usda.gov/mt)

### **MSU Extension**

Montana State University  
P.O. Box 172230  
Bozeman, MT 59717-223  
406-994-1750

<http://msuextension.org/>

### **Risk Management Agency - Regional Office**

3490 Gabel Road, Suite 100  
Billings, MT 59102  
406-657-6447

[http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/mt\\_rso/](http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/mt_rso/)



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.