



Due to losses incurred by a “declared natural disaster” producers may qualify for low interest loans if they can demonstrate a crop production loss of 30%, based on the previous 3-year crop average, or have incurred substantial losses to land, buildings, structures, livestock or livestock products because of the natural disaster. In addition, the producer must be unable to obtain credit elsewhere and be able to show sufficient repayment ability. Other criteria also applies. The deadline to apply for an EM loan is 8 months following a designation date.

Process of EM loan designations

Designations are made per county. The EM loan program is available to producers having a qualifying loss in the declared county and any county contiguous to the declared county. EM loans are the **only** FSA program Secretarial, Administrator, and Presidential designations initiate.

Process for Secretarial Disaster Designation

Made by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Reservation Request: Tribal governments have the option to request a Secretarial Disaster Designation directly to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Non-Reservation Request: Local County Commissioners submit a request to the Governor of Montana. The Governor then forwards county requests to the Secretary of Agriculture. Following evaluation of the requests, the Secretary of Agriculture asks FSA to gather data in the form of a Damage Assessment Report (DAR). FSA, as a member of the county emergency board, develops the DAR’s and forwards them to a branch of FSA in Washington D.C. FSA in DC processes those reports and makes a recommendation to the Secretary of Ag. The Secretary can then approve or deny those requests on a county-by-county basis.

Process for Administrator Disaster Designation

Made by the Administrator of FSA.

This designation will only cover physical losses to land, buildings, structures, livestock or livestock products. Losses to crops are not covered under an Administrator declaration.

The County Emergency Board sends a request to the State Executive Director (SED) of the Farm Service Agency in Montana. The SED then forwards the request on to the National Administrator of FSA in Washington D.C. who reviews the request and can deny or declare the disaster.

Process for Presidential Disaster Designation

The disaster designation is declared by the President of the United States for severe weather conditions or for a severe natural phenomenon, normally affecting large areas.



FSA Determinations

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

For all natural disasters such as flood and fire, excluding droughts, the FSA State Executive Director, may implement the program. For severe drought, only the national FSA office can authorize implementation of this program. Eligibility for implementation of this program for drought is based on the amount of precipitation for the last 12 consecutive months. Local FSA county committees are to monitor conditions and submit requests to implement this program to the state FSA office who will forward to the national FSA office, if justified. Cost-share assistance from 50-64% is available for qualifying losses.

Emergency Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres

May be authorized by either Secretarial approval, which is county specific and only for emergency haying and/or grazing of CRP and no other programs, or by the FSA State Committee using information from the U.S. Drought Monitor. The FSA State Committee can approve emergency haying and grazing, on a county by county basis, if the drought were designated as Extreme (D3) or worse. Once the U.S. Drought Monitor lowers the drought designation in a county from the D3 level, grazing and haying applications would no longer be accepted in the county. Payment reductions will be assessed for acres hayed or grazed.

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP is designed to provide some crop loss protection during times of catastrophic losses. NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs as the result of natural disasters. Producers must first purchase a policy at \$100/crop and show they have a 50 % or greater loss of normal production.

Special Funding Programs

Special Disaster Assistance Programs

Funding for special disaster programs such as the Livestock Assistance Program (LAP), Crop Disaster Assistance Program (CDP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), or the Sugar Beet Disaster Assistance Program, that may come available within a given year, are approved through special funding authorized by Congress. Eligibility criteria varies between programs.