USDA Designates 12 Montana Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas for Drought

Emergency Designation | Montana | July 31, 2025

Additional Five Montana Counties Also Eligible Due to Idaho Primary Drought Designations

Montana

This Secretarial natural disaster designation allows the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters through emergency loans. Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation, or to refinance certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 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.

Triggering Disaster #1

Impacted Area: Montana

Triggering Disaster: Drought

Application Deadline: 3/16/2026

Primary Counties Eligible:

- **Montana:** Daniels, Garfield, McCone, Mineral, Missoula, Phillips, Roosevelt, Sanders and Valley

Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:

- **Idaho:** Bonner, Clearwater, Idaho and Shoshone

- **Montana:** Blaine, Custer, Dawson, Fergus, Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Petroleum, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Rosebud and Sheridan

- **North Dakota:** McKenzie and Williams

Triggering Disaster #2

Impacted Area: Montana

Triggering Disaster: Drought

Application Deadline: 3/16/2026

Primary Counties Eligible:

- **Montana:** Hill, Liberty and Toole

Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:

- **Montana:** Blaine, Chouteau, Glacier and Pondera

Triggering Disaster #3

Impacted Area: Idaho

Triggering Disaster: Drought

Application Deadline: 3/16/2025

Primary Counties Eligible:

- **Idaho:** Clearwater, Idaho, Lemhi, Lewis and Shoshone

Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:

- **Idaho:** Adams, Benewah, Bonner, Butte, Clark, Custer, Kootenai, Latah, Nez Perce and Valley
- **Montana:** Beaverhead, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders
- **Oregon:** Wallowa

More Resources

On farmers.gov, the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet, and Loan Assistance Tool can help you determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local USDA Service Center.

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