USDA Designates 16 Montana Counties as Natural Disaster Areas

Emergency Designation | Montana | September 28, 2026

21 Contiguous Montana Counties Eligible for Assistance

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.

Impacted Area: Montana, Idaho and Wyoming

Triggering Disaster: Drought (fast track) beginning May 01, 2026

Application Deadline: May 17, 2027

Primary Counties Eligible:

- **Montana**: Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Fergus, Gallatin, Golden Valley, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Meagher, Prairie, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland and Yellowstone

Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:

- **Idaho:** Freemont
- **Montana:** Beaverhead, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Garfield, Hill, Lewis and Clark, McCone, Madison, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Powell, Rosebud, Treasure and Wibaux

- **Wyoming:** Big Horn, Park, Sheridan and Teton

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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