



Office of the Under Secretary
for Farm Production and Conservation
Washington, D.C. 20250

May 19, 2026

THE HONORABLE GREG GIANFORTE
Governor
State of Montana
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Governor Gianforte:

Per 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating 10 Montana counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought. I am responding on behalf of the Department.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>), 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.

Per section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your State and an adjacent State are named as contiguous disaster counties. Enclosed you will find documentation that provides a detailed list of all primary and contiguous counties impacted by this disaster.

Other counties in Montana may have already been designated as natural disaster counties if they had previously met the requirements found under 7 CFR 759.5(a) for the current crop year.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loan assistance, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. FSA considers each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm and the security and repayment ability of the operator.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact FPAC.BC.Congressional@usda.gov, reference disaster designation number OES-1102.

Sincerely,


Brooke S. Appleton
Deputy Under Secretary

Enclosure
cc: Brooke Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture

DISASTER DESIGNATION AREAS FOR MONTANA AND A CONTIGUOUS STATE

Primary Counties:

Montana	(10)			
Beaverhead	Chouteau	Hill	Madison	Teton
Cascade	Glacier	Liberty	Pondera	Toole

Contiguous Counties:

Montana	(11)		
Blaine	Gallatin	Meagher	
Deer Lodge	Jefferson	Ravalli	
Fergus	Judith Basin	Silver Bow	
Flathead	Lewis and Clark		

Contiguous Counties in an Adjacent State:

Idaho	(3)	
Clark	Fremont	Lemhi