



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

September 4, 2020

The Honorable Steve Bullock
Governor
State of Montana
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Governor Bullock:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating one Montana county as a primary natural disaster area due to a recent drought.

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

In accordance with 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.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Enclosure

Disaster Designation Areas for Montana and a Contiguous State

Primary County:

Montana (1)
Powder River

Contiguous Counties:

Montana (4)
Big Horn Carter Custer Rosebud

In addition, in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, counties in an adjacent state are named as contiguous disaster areas. That state, counties, and numbers are:

Contiguous Counties in an Adjacent State:

Wyoming (3)
Campbell Crook Sheridan