



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 31 2020

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

Dear Governor Bullock:

Thank you for your letter requesting a primary county disaster designation for Daniels, Roosevelt, Sheridan, and Valley Counties in Montana. On December 9, 2019, and December 18, 2019, the Montana State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), requested a primary county disaster designation for 17 Montana counties due to losses caused by multiple disasters that occurred during the 2019 crop year.

USDA reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation; therefore, I am designating all 17 Montana counties as primary natural disaster areas, in eight separate disaster designations. 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 these disasters.

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 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 fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Enclosure

Designation Number 1: Excessive moisture that occurred during August 10, 2019, through October 31, 2019:

Primary Counties:

Montana	(4)			
McCone	Richland	Roosevelt	Wibaux	

Contiguous Counties:

Montana	(7)			
Daniels	Fallon	Prairie	Valley	
Dawson	Garfield	Sheridan		

Contiguous Counties in an Adjacent State:

North Dakota	(3)			
Golden Valley	McKenzie	Williams		

Designation Number 2: Excessive moisture and excessive snow that occurred during June 20, 2019, through December 1, 2019:

Primary Counties:

Montana	(5)				
Daniels	Rosebud	Sheridan	Treasure	Valley	

Contiguous Counties:

Montana	(10)				
Big Horn	Garfield	Musselshell	Phillips	Roosevelt	
Custer	McCone	Petroleum	Powder River	Yellowstone	

Contiguous Counties in an Adjacent State:

North Dakota	(2)				
Divide	Williams				

Designation Number 3: Excessive moisture, excessive snow, and freeze that occurred during September 1, 2019, through November 12, 2019:

Primary County:

Montana (1)
Dawson

Contiguous Counties:

Montana (4)
McCone Prairie Richland Wibaux

Designation Number 4: Excessive moisture, excessive snow, hail, and high winds that occurred during August 15, 2019, through November 1, 2019:

Primary County:

Montana (1)
Prairie

Contiguous Counties:

Montana (6)
Custer Fallon McCone
Dawson Garfield Wibaux

Designation Number 5: Blizzard and excessive snow that occurred during September 28, 2019, through October 9, 2019:

Primary County:

Montana (1)
Toole

Contiguous Counties:

Montana (3)
Glacier Liberty Pondera

Designation Number 6: Blizzard, excessive snow, extreme cold, freeze, and high winds that occurred during September 27, 2019, through October 5, 2019:

Primary Counties:

Montana	(2)
Glacier	Teton

Contiguous Counties:

Montana	(6)	
Cascade	Flathead	Pondera
Chouteau	Lewis and Clark	Toole

Designation Number 7: Blizzard, excessive snow, freeze, and frost that occurred during September 27, 2019, through October 8, 2019:

Primary County:

Montana	(1)
Pondera	

Contiguous Counties:

Montana	(6)	
Chouteau	Glacier	Teton
Flathead	Liberty	Toole

Designation Number 8: Excessive snow that occurred during September 28, 2019, through December 5, 2019:

Primary Counties:

Montana	(2)
Cascade	Chouteau

Contiguous Counties:

Montana	(9)	
Blaine	Judith Basin	Meagher
Fergus	Lewis and Clark	Pondera
Hill	Liberty	Teton