USDA Farm Service Agency Programs

Drought

USDA Secretarial Declarations

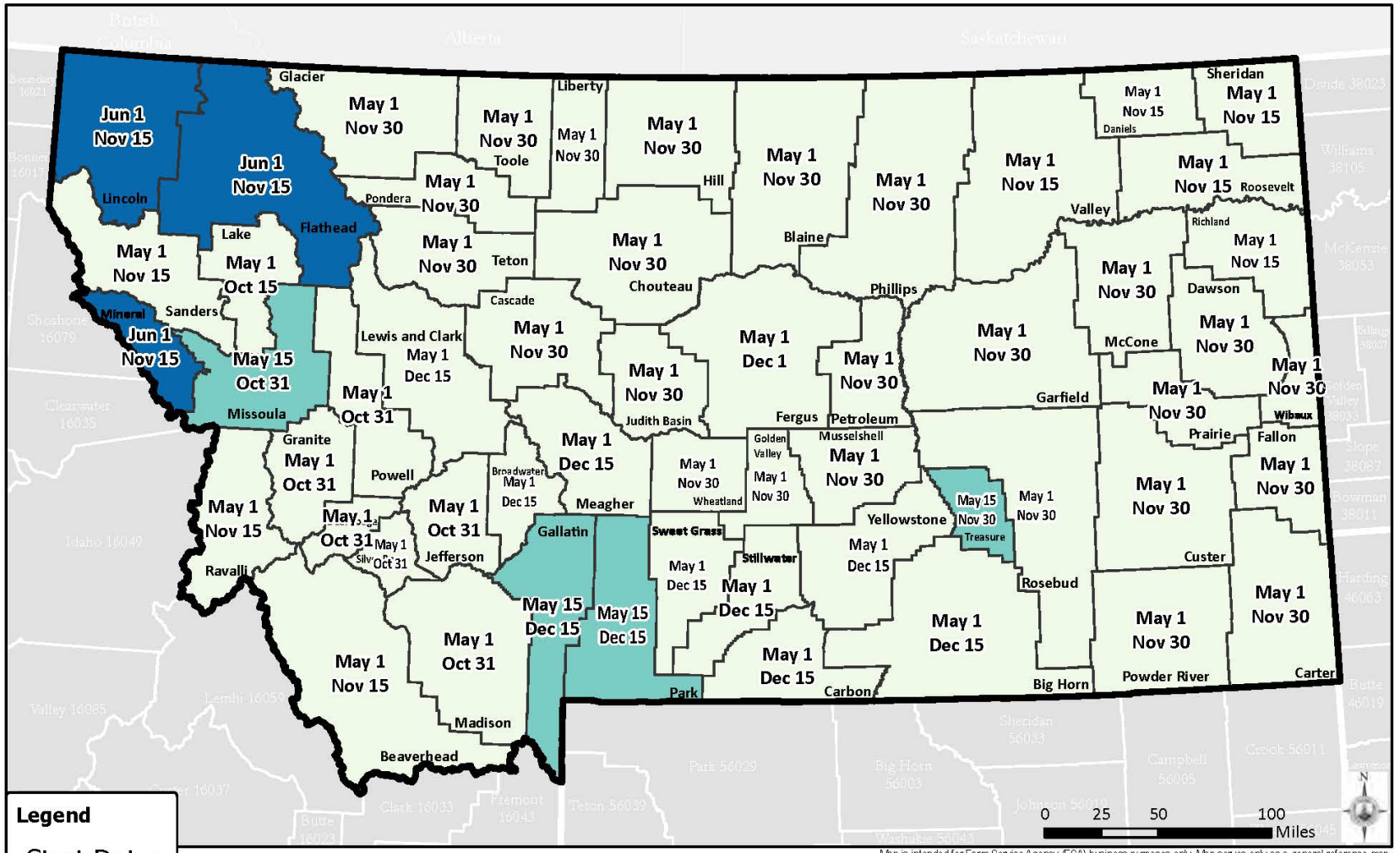
- A Secretarial Designation can trigger in three ways:
  - **Fast-Track: Drought Only - uses the drought intensity value of D2, D3 and D4 to trigger within the grazing period,**
  - A 30-percent or greater production loss to at least 1 crop because of a natural disaster,
  - or at least 1 producer who sustained individual losses of 30% or greater of 1 crop because of a natural disaster and is unable to obtain commercial financing to cover those losses.
- Benefits
  - Available for both Primary and Contiguous Counties.
  - FSA Emergency Loans and disaster set-aside for FSA loans.
  - SBA loans and potential tax benefits.

FSA Utilizing the Drought Monitor

- 8 consecutive weeks of D2
- D3 (extreme drought)
- D4 (exceptional drought)

USDA Farm Service Agency Montana

Grazing Periods - Start and End Dates by County



Map is intended for Farm Service Agency (FSA) business purposes only. Map serves only as a general reference map.
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.
Source: USDA Farm Service Agency and the State of Montana.

May 2024

NAP – Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

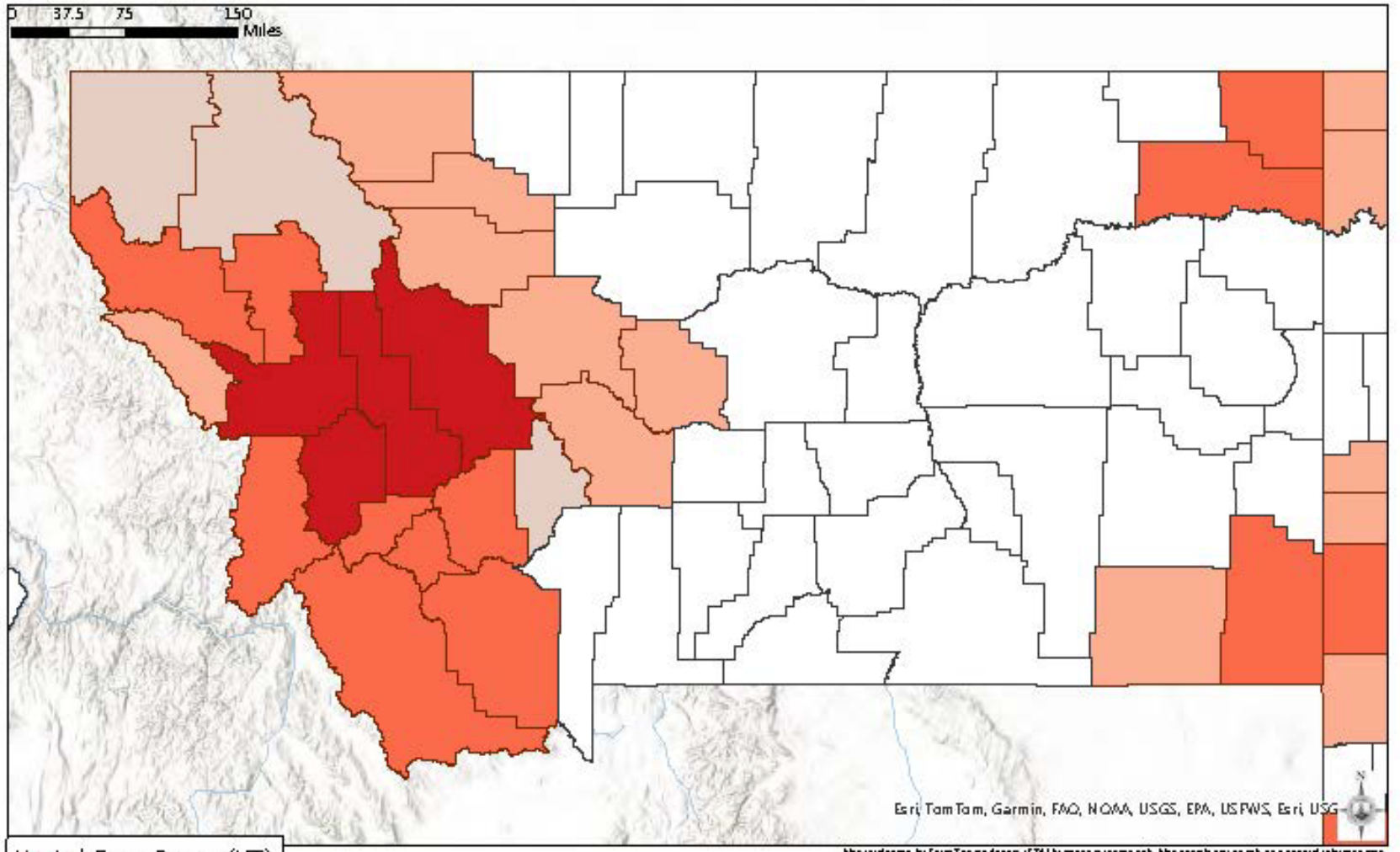
- Assists producers manage risk
- Noninsured crops include grass for grazing and agricultural commodities not covered by federal crop insurance in your county.
- Benefits
  - Basic NAP coverage is equivalent to the catastrophic level risk protection plan of insurance coverage,
  - which is based on the amount of loss that exceeds 50% of expected production at 55% of the average market price for the crop.

Livestock Programs

- Livestock Forage Program (LFP)
  - Must be physically in primary counties only.
  - Drought Monitor eligibility triggers within the Grazing Period.
    - D2 – 1 monthly payment
    - D3 – 3 monthly payments
    - 4 weeks in D3 – 4 monthly payments
    - D4 – 4 monthly payments
    - 4 weeks in D4 – 5 monthly payments
- Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)
  - Feed/Livestock/Water transportation pays for additional feed purchases due to an eligible event.

USDA Farm Service Agency Montana

2024 Livestock Forage Program (LFP) Potential Eligibility



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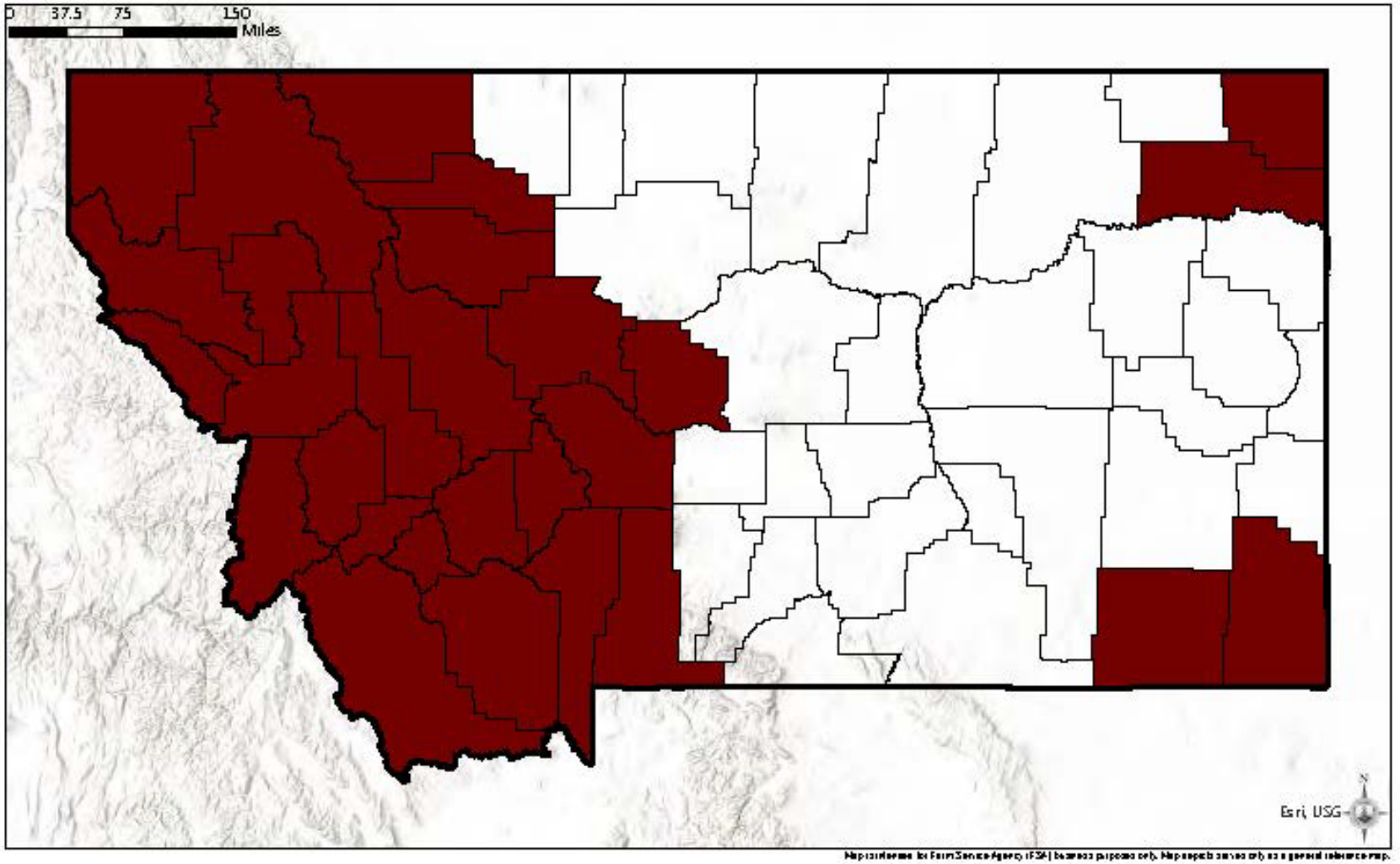
Source: USDA Farm Service Agency, US Drought Monitor and the State of Montana.

October 1, 2024

USDA Farm Service Agency Montana

2024 ELAP Transportation Potential Eligibility



ELAP Transportation

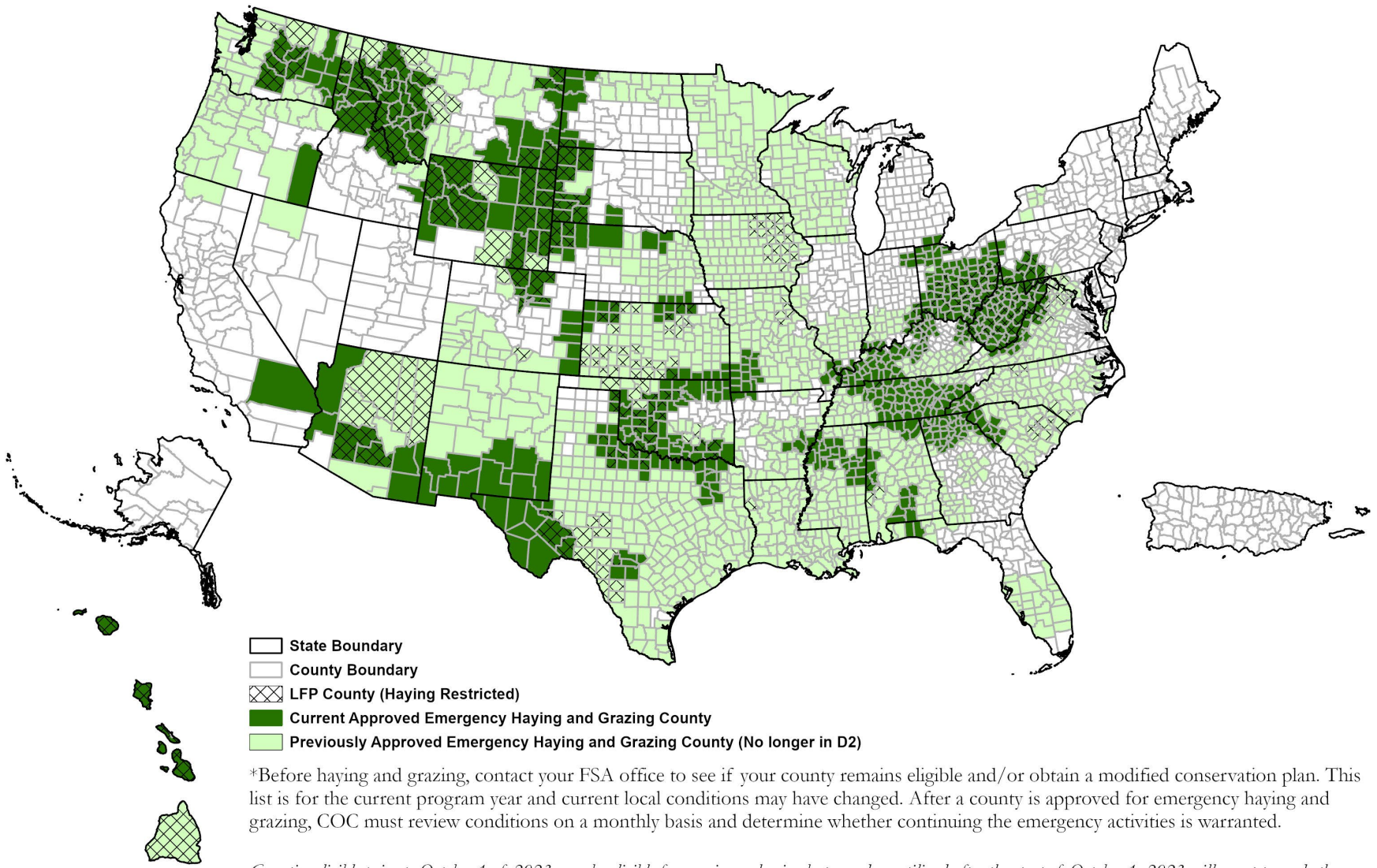
- Potentially Eligible (28)
- Ineligible (28)

October 1, 2024

Conservation Programs

- Conservation Reserve Program
  - Emergency haying and grazing on certain CRP practices in a county designated as D2 or higher
  - Primary Nesting Season (PNS) (Montana May 15 - July 15)
    - Haying must be outside the PNS
    - Grazing is allowed during the PNS with a 50% reduction in the carrying capacity
- Emergency Conservation Program
  - D3, D4 or 40% less than normal precipitation in the last 3 months plus the current month
  - Not automatically triggered, must be requested at the local level
  - Cost Share is potentially available for livestock water resources

Counties Eligible for CRP Emergency Haying and Grazing Since October 1, 2023*



*Before haying and grazing, contact your FSA office to see if your county remains eligible and/or obtain a modified conservation plan. This list is for the current program year and current local conditions may have changed. After a county is approved for emergency haying and grazing, COC must review conditions on a monthly basis and determine whether continuing the emergency activities is warranted.

Counties eligible prior to October 1 of 2023 may be eligible for grazing or haying but any days utilized after the start of October 1, 2023 will count towards the total allowable days in 2024.

Map Created by DAFP/CD 10/1/2024 7:52 AM

Contact

- Local County Offices www.fsa.usda.gov/mt > click County Offices

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