

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



ANGELA MCLEAN
LT. GOVERNOR

August 24, 2015

Tom Vilsack, Secretary
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I have received a request for a Natural Disaster Designation by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture from the Commissioners of Blaine and Lake Counties, due to recent damage from late frost, lack of precipitation and hail. Producers in Blaine and Lake Counties saw 40-45% of normal precipitation this year. Extreme heat in June and July has stressed crops and created extraordinary demand for irrigation throughout Montana.

A severe hail storm affected all of Blaine County on July 4, 2015. Golf ball size hails damaged crops, native range, and equipment and farm structures.

Livestock producers of Lake County show losses up to 70% of pasture and hay yields. Some may be forced to liquidate a portion or all of their livestock.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to the State Farm Service Agency office so they may begin the process of compiling the necessary damage assessment information.

Your prompt review and approval of this request will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SB", written over a horizontal line.

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

Cc: Blaine County Commissioners
Lake County Commissioners
Ron de Yong, Montana Department of Agriculture
Major General Matthew T. Quinn, Department of Military Affairs
Delila Bruno, Disaster and Emergency Services
Bruce Nelson, Montana State Farm Service Agency
Sydney Dietz, Montana State Farm Service Agency
Ed Daughterty, Lake County Executive Director
Tracy Harshman, Blaine County Executive Director