



# Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP): Montana

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Development of this paper  
was sponsored by Fort Peck  
Community College's  
Agriculture/Extension  
Department in cooperation  
with the USDA's Risk  
Management Agency.



Agricultural Marketing Policy Paper No. 32  
January 2010

## Background

Congress provided both ongoing and *ad hoc* disaster programs over the period 1980 to 2008.

Permanent or “standing” disaster assistance programs were established and authorized by federal legislation commonly known as the “farm bills” and included Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and the Emergency Loan Program (EM).

The ECP was designed to facilitate actions such as emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought although cost share funds for these measures were dependent on the annual federal appropriations process. ECP cost share funds for emergency water conservation have been used by Montana ranch operators to provide water for range livestock.

The EM allowed the Farm Service Agency to provide financial assistance for producers’ recovery from production and physical losses due to drought and other natural disasters. Emergency loans could be made to eligible ranchers and farmers in counties declared disaster areas by the President or the Secretary of Agriculture. The loans could be used to replace essential property, pay production costs for the disaster year, pay essential family living expenses, reorganize the farm or ranch operation, and refinance certain types of farm/ranch debt.

Other disaster programs were also implemented during or following periods of widespread natural disaster but through a different process. Typically, appropriations legislation authorized and appropriated funding for *ad hoc* disaster programs. For example, if the *Agricultural Assistance Act of 2007* authorized and appropriated funding for several *ad hoc* disaster programs, including a Livestock Indemnity Program and a Livestock Compensation Program (the latter program is similar in concept to the current Livestock Forage Disaster Program).

The eligibility criteria and payment rates for the former *ad hoc* disaster programs such as the Livestock Compensation Program were often changed from one *ad hoc* disaster program to the next. As the fundamental elements of former *ad hoc* programs were never known to producers prior to the establishment of a program to provide relief from a widespread disaster, producers were subject to changing loss thresholds and eligibility requirements. For instance, under the Livestock Compensation Program authorized in 2007, producers could be compensated for losses between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. However, producers incurring losses in more than one of

the 2005, 2006 and 2007 calendar years could only receive benefits for one of these years.

The *ad hoc* nature of these disaster programs changed with the passage of the *Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008*, the most recent farm bill, in June of 2008. This statute included a title called *Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance (SADA)* that authorized a portfolio of permanent or “standing” disaster assistance programs. The **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** is one of the disaster programs authorized under this title.

## Overview of the LFP Program (LFP)

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses because of qualifying **drought** or **fire**. For drought, losses must occur because of a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover, or land planted with a crop specifically for grazing livestock. For fire, LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses on rangeland managed by a Federal agency because the producer is prohibited from grazing the normally permitted livestock on the managed rangeland because of the qualifying fire. The eligible grazing losses must occur within the same calendar year the benefits are being requested.

Compensation provided under LFP can be used for any purpose by the program participant.

**LFP has a risk management purchase requirement for program benefit eligibility.**

## Eligibility Requirements for LFP:

To be eligible for the LFP, several conditions must be met. These include eligibility conditions for grazing land, livestock and producers, and also include risk management requirements.

*Eligible Grazing Types:* In each county, different types or varieties of pasture and grazing crops shall be grouped into one of the following: improved pasture with permanent vegetative cover (nonirrigated); native pasture with permanent vegetative cover (nonirrigated); small grain crops planted specifically for the purpose of providing grazing for covered livestock (nonirrigated); and forage sorghum crops planted specifically for the purpose of providing grazing for covered livestock (nonirrigated).

*Eligible Grazing Lands:* State and Federal lands are eligible grazing lands if either of the following apply: (1) the land is leased on a long term basis and the Farm Service Agency determines that the lease requires the participant to make a contribution, including but not limited to wells, fences, or other maintenance and upkeep inputs; or (2) pasture or grazing land is leased for cash or a fixed amount for an established grazing period.

Eligible land could be irrigated grazing land that was not irrigated during the current production year because of lack of water for reasons beyond the participant's control. (In determining such eligibility the Farm Service Agency will apply the same provisions as used under the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program for covering irrigated grazing losses).

Privately owned, cash or share leased pasture or rangeland that is used to provide grazing for covered livestock is eligible land.

Livestock producers are responsible for providing documentation such as written leases to the Farm Service Agency to show that their contributions are at risk in the pasture and grazing land for which benefits are requested under LFP.

*Eligible Covered Livestock:* To be considered eligible covered livestock, livestock must meet **all** of the following conditions:

- (1) Be adult and non-adult beef cattle, adult and non-adult buffalo/beefalo, adult and non-adult dairy cattle, alpacas, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, lammas, poultry, reindeer, sheep, or swine; (see Appendix A: Select Definitions for livestock kind and weight delineations).
- (2) Be livestock that would have normally been grazing the eligible pasture or grazing land in the county on the beginning date:
  - (a) of the qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the specific pasture or grazing land for the county (but if the producer had to move the livestock to another county for grazing, the livestock would be eligible to be included when calculating the monthly feed cost),
  - (b) when the Federal agency prohibited the eligible livestock producer from using the managed grazing land because of fire.
- (3) Be livestock that the eligible livestock producer:
  - (a) owned, purchased, or leased, anytime in the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of the

qualifying drought or fire, or was a contract grower of,

- (b) sold or otherwise disposed of because of a qualifying drought during:
  - (1) the current production year
  - (2) one or both of the two production years immediately preceding the current production year.
- (4) Maintained for commercial use as part of the producer's farming operation on the beginning date of the qualifying drought or fire.
- (5) Not have been produced or maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of the producer's farming operation.
- (6) Not been livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot on the beginning date of the qualifying drought or fire as part of the normal business operation of the producer.

*Mitigated livestock* may also be eligible livestock. When livestock are sold or otherwise disposed of because of a qualifying drought during the current production year, or were sold or otherwise disposed of because of a qualifying drought in one or both of the two production years immediately preceding the current production year, and other program requirements are met, they will likely be eligible for financial assistance under LFP.

Some livestock are **ineligible for LFP**. These are primarily livestock produced or maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation. Such animals would include livestock produced or maintained for recreational purposes such as consumption by the owner, hunting, roping, showing, etc. In addition, livestock physically located **in a feedlot** are **not** eligible.

Other **ineligible livestock** include yaks, ostriches, and wild or free-roaming livestock including horses and deer, and **all** beef and dairy cattle, and buffalo and beefalo that weighed **less than 500 pounds** on the beginning date of the qualifying drought or fire.

*Eligible Livestock Producers:* To be considered an eligible livestock producer, the producer must:

- (1) During the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of the qualifying drought or fire, own, cash or share lease, or be a contract grower of covered livestock

(2) Provide pastureland or grazing land for covered livestock including cash-rented pastureland that is either:

- (a) physically located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the grazing period for the county
- (b) rangeland managed by a Federal agency for which the otherwise eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the Federal agency from grazing the permitted livestock because of a qualifying fire normally.

(3) Certify that the livestock producer has suffered a grazing loss because of a qualifying drought or fire to be eligible for LFP payments

(4) File a timely report of acreage for all grazing land for which a loss is being claimed

(5) Be an individual or entity that is a:

- (a) citizen of the United States
- (b) resident alien
- (c) partnership of citizens of the United States
- (d) corporation, limited liability corporation, or other farm organizational structure organized under State law
- (e) any Native American tribe defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act
- (f) any Native American organization or entity chartered under the Indian Reorganization Act; or
- (g) any economic enterprise under the Indian Financing Act of 1974.

#### *Risk Management Purchase Requirement for LFP*

*Eligibility:* To be eligible for financial assistance under LFP for grazing land, a producer must either:

- (1) obtain an Risk Management Agency (RMA) policy or plan of insurance for the forage crop, or
- (2) file the required paperwork and pay the administrative fee by the application closing date for Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage

Livestock producers are **not** required to purchase pilot program insurance to be eligible for LFP.

The only RMA-approved insurance program available for pastureland and grazing land in Montana is **Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Rainfall Insurance (PRF-RI)**. This is a **pilot** program and only covers losses due to

drought. Because this product does not cover all eligible perils, coverage from the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program has to be made available to producers on the same acres covered by PRF policy to provide coverage for losses resulting from all eligible causes of loss including fire.

A producer who obtains PRF on their grazing lands (on some or all acres), to cover drought, and NAP coverage on the same acres to cover all perils, will be ineligible for a NAP payment if the producer receives a PRF indemnity payment. (It should be noted that the producer pays a premium for PRF and makes a payment for NAP, neither of which are refundable).

In Montana, for purposes of meeting the LFP risk management purchase requirement, a producer may purchase PRF insurance, pay for NAP coverage, or do both.

Producers who meet the requirements of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmer or rancher do **not** have to meet the *risk management purchase requirement*. In the case of an eligible livestock producer that is a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher or limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher, the Secretary may:

- (1) waive the requirement to purchase a policy or plan of insurance or obtain coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or
- (2) provide disaster assistance under such conditions at a level determined by the Secretary of Agriculture to be equitable and appropriate.

#### **LFP Signup**

For grazing losses, a general signup period and ending date are **not** applicable for LFP. A county Farm Service Agency office will announce that producers in the county may make application for LFP that the county has a **qualifying drought** based on the U.S. Drought Monitor severity rating (but only after the county and state office is notified of the qualifying drought by the national office of the Farm Service Agency).

Alternatively, a producer impacted by grazing losses due to fire on Federally managed grazing land will be expected to notify their county Farm Service Agency office of their losses. Producers will communicate that they were notified by the Federal land management agency that they are prohibited from grazing their normally permitted livestock and/or that their normal

grazing days are reduced because of the fire. Local county Farm Service Agency offices shall verify details of such losses with documentation provided by the Federal land management agency.

**Qualifying droughts** are rated by the U. S. Drought Monitor as any of the following:

- (1) **D2** (severe drought) in any area of the county for at least 8 consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land or pastureland for the county
- (2) **D3** (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county at any time during the normal grazing period for the specific period for the specific type of grazing land or pastureland for the county.
- (3) **D3** (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least 4 weeks during the normal grazing period (not consecutive weeks) for the specific type of grazing land or pastureland for the county, **or D4** (exceptional drought) intensity in any area of the county at any time during the normal grazing period for the specific grazing land or pastureland for the county.

With a qualifying drought in any area of a county, the entire county is eligible and eligible livestock producers who certify a grazing loss are eligible for LFP as long as they meet all other criteria.

An eligible livestock producer may receive assistance for grazing losses because of a **qualifying fire** only if (1) grazing losses occurred on rangeland managed by a Federal agency and (2) the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the Federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland because of a fire. Grazing losses must occur in the calendar year that the benefits are requested.

For 2009 and subsequent year losses, eligible livestock producers must submit a completed application on the appropriate Farm Service Agency form along with supporting documentation no later than 30 days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing loss occurred.

## **Beginning Dates for Qualifying Droughts and Fires**

The national Farm Service Agency office will monitor the U.S. Drought Monitor and notify applicable state and county Farm Service Agency offices weekly of the counties eligible for LFP because of a qualifying drought. The

national office will determine the beginning date of a qualifying drought by **pasture type** and notify the applicable state and county Farm Service Agency offices of the beginning date of a D2, D3, or D4 drought intensity rating.

The **beginning date** of a **D2 drought intensity rating** is the first day of an **8 consecutive week period** during the normal grazing period for a specific type of pasture that the county was rated D2 on the U.S. Drought Monitor.

The **beginning date** of a **D3 or D4 drought intensity rating** is the first day the county was rated a D3 or D4 on the U.S. Drought Monitor during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land, **or** the first day the county was rated a **D3** for any **4 week period** during the normal grazing period for a specific type of grazing land.

**The normal grazing period for each of the four grazing types (native pasture, improved pasture, small grains, and forage sorghum) is specified for each county (Appendix A, Table 1A).**

Although a local county office of the Farm Service Agency may have knowledge of a fire on Federally managed land in their county, county office personnel shall request documentation from the Federal agency that manages the rangeland to substantiate that a qualifying fire has occurred. They will seek to identify the location of the fire, the cause of the fire, the date the fire started, and whether livestock producers were prohibited from their normal permitted livestock and/or whether their grazing days were reduced because of the fire. Based on this information, the local Farm Service Agency office will determine on what date the Federal Agency first excluded permitted livestock from grazing.

## **LFP Payments**

A livestock producer will be eligible to receive LFP payments for grazing losses because of a **qualifying drought** equal to 1, 2, or 3 times the monthly payment rate (Table 1). Consider the following schedule:

- (1) An eligible livestock producer must own or lease grazing land that is physically located in a county that is rated D2, severe drought, for at least 8 weeks during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land or pastureland in the county to receive a **one month payment**, that is, a payment equal to the monthly feed cost.

(2) An eligible livestock producer must own or lease grazing land or pastureland that is physically located in a county that is rated **D3, extreme drought**, during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land or pastureland in the county to receive **2 months payment**, a payment equal to twice the monthly feed cost.

(3) An eligible livestock producer must own or lease grazing land or pastureland that is physically located in the county that is rated **D3, extreme drought**, in any area of the county for at least **4 weeks** during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land or pastureland, **OR** rated as **D4, exceptional drought**, in any area of the county at any time during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land or pastureland for the county to **receive 3 months payment**, a payment equal to three times the monthly feed cost.

The **LFP Payment Rate** for losses because of a **qualifying drought** is calculated at 60 percent of the **smaller** of:

- (1) The monthly payment rate (for a particular kind, type and weight of livestock, as presented in Table 1) is multiplied by the number of head of eligible livestock. This is done across all applicable kind, type and weights of livestock and the products of these calculations are then summed.
- (2) The number of grazing land or pastureland acres of a specific a specific type of grazing land is divided by the normal carrying capacity per animal unit of the specific type of eligible grazing land or pastureland. This number is then multiplied by 30 days, and multiplied again by the daily feed cost per animal unit, AU (Refer to Appendix A, Table A-2 for AU equivalents).

In case 1, consider a ranch with 100 head of adult beef cattle that suffers a forage loss due to drought:

**100 head x \$40.04/head = \$4,004, so the potential payment is: \$4,004 x 0.60 = \$2,402.**

In case 2, consider the ranch has 100 head of adult beef cattle on 1,000 acres of grazing land with had a carrying capacity of 5 acres per AU. The payment calculation is otherwise as follows:

**1,000 acres of grazing land/5 acres per AU normal carrying capacity = 200 AU**

**\$40.04/30 days = \$1.3347 daily feed cost**  
**200 AU x 30 days x \$1.3347 daily feed cost = \$8,008, so the potential payment is:**  
**\$8,008 x 0.60 = \$4,804.**

**LFP payment** would therefore be \$2,402 for loss of grazing for the 100 head of adult beef cattle because that is the smaller number.

The LFP payments to an eligible livestock producer in a calendar year for grazing losses **because** of a qualifying drought will not exceed **3** monthly payments for the same livestock.

For a livestock producer who sold or otherwise disposed of covered livestock because of drought conditions in **one or both** of the preceding two production years, the payment rate will be 80 percent of the monthly rate.

Payment calculations are similar when grazing losses occur because of **fire on federally managed lands**. The payment begins on the first day the permitted livestock are prohibited from grazing the eligible rangeland and ends on the earlier of either the last day of the Federal lease of the livestock producer or the day that would make the period a 180 day calendar period.

The payment rate is **50 percent** of the monthly feed cost for the number of days the producer is prohibited from grazing the managed rangeland because of the fire, not to exceed 180 days.

To determine the payment for grazing loss due to fire, the smaller of two calculations is selected:

- (1) [Permitted AUs x normal grazing days x AU daily rate] x 50 percent = Maximum Payment Amount

**[100 AUs x 180 calendar days x \$1.3345 daily payment rate] x 0.50 = \$12,011.**

- (2) [Reduced AUs x reduced grazing days x AU daily rate] x 50 percent = Value of Grazing Reduction due to Fire

**[75 reduced AUs x 110 fewer grazing days x \$1.3345 daily payment rate] x 0.50 = \$5,505.**

In this case the eligible livestock producer would receive \$5,505 because the producer was not permitted to run 75 head of mature beef animals on the Federally managed range for 110 days of the grazing period.

**Table 1: Monthly Feed Cost Payment Rates for Covered Livestock**

Kind	Type	Weight Range	Payment Rate Per Head
Beef	Adult	Cows and Bulls	\$40.04
	Non-adult	500 pounds or more	\$30.03
Dairy	Adult	Cows and Bulls	\$104.09
	Non-adult	500 pounds or more	\$30.03
Buffalo/Beefalo	Adult	Cows and Bulls	\$40.04
	Non-adult	500 pounds or more	\$30.03
Sheep	All		\$10.01
Goats	All		\$10.01
Deer	All		\$10.01
Equine	All		\$29.63
Swine		Less than 45 pounds	\$1.19
		45 to 124 pounds	\$2.79
		125 to 234 pounds	\$4.81
	Sow	235 pounds or more	\$16.42
	Boar	235 pounds or more	\$9.62
Elk		Less than 400 pounds	\$8.82
		400 pounds to 799 pounds	\$16.42
		800 pounds or more	\$21.62
Poultry		Less than 3 pounds	\$0.25
		3 pounds to 7.9 pounds	\$0.50
		8 pounds or more	\$1.15
Reindeer	All		\$8.82
Alpacas	All		\$32.98
Emus	All		\$20.49
Llamas	All		\$14.61

For 2009 and subsequent years, LFP payments are limited to a maximum of \$100,000 per program year per person or legal entity, but this is a combined limit that includes payments from ELAP, LFP, LIP, and SURE.

**A Drought Impacted Montana Ranch**

A Carter County ranch annually has about 500 cows with calf at side, 20 mature range bulls, 75 un-bred replacement heifers and 6 saddle horses at the beginning of the normal grazing season that lasts 215 days from May 1 to December 1.

1. The livestock inventory is grazed on non-irrigated native range.

Grazing land for forage is provided by rangeland owned and cash leased by the ranch, which manages 15,000 acres of rangeland.

During the production year there is a D2 intensity-rated drought for Custer County. The drought begins on July 15<sup>th</sup> and continues until September 28<sup>th</sup>.

In a D2 drought, the rancher, who has the rangeland covered under NAP, will be eligible for a one-month payment equal to the monthly feed cost for the number of his eligible livestock.

The rancher will receive the lesser of the following two calculations of the monthly feed cost:

520 Beef, Adult Cows and Bulls at \$40.04 per head = \$20,821.

75 Beef, Non-adult animals at 500 pounds or more \$30.03 per head = \$2,252.

6 Horses, All at \$29.63 per head = \$178.

**Total = \$23,251.**

**60% of Total = \$13,951.**

Consider the native pasture lost: 15,000 acres/ 21.0 acres per AU = 714.29 Au x \$40.04 per AU = \$ **28,600.**

**The potential payment is therefore: 60 % of Total = \$17,160.**

**On this ranch, the one month financial assistance will be \$13,951, the smaller of the two estimates.**

### **A Fire Impacted Montana Ranch**

Consider a second ranch in Carter County where cattle are pastured on managed grazing in the Custer National Forest.

The second ranch has 500 animal units (AUs) of permitted grazing for the maximum of 180 permitted days. A forest fire occurred about a third of the way through the season and the 350 of the 500 animal units are restricted from the permitted grazing for the remaining 120 days of the permitted grazing period.

To determine the payment for grazing loss due to fire, the smaller of two calculations is selected:

#### Calculation 1:

500 permitted animal units x 180 permitted days = 90,000 animal unit days x \$1.3345 animal unit day payment rate = \$120,105 [animal unit day rate is the AUM rate/30 days].

Using calculation 1, the payment would be 50% of this amount: that is, **50% of \$120,105 = \$60,053.**

#### Calculation 2:

350 lost animal units x 120 lost grazing days from permit = 42,000 total reduced animal unit days x \$1.3345 animal unit day payment rate = \$56,049. Thus in calculation 2, the payment equals **50% of \$56,049 = \$28,025.**

**On this ranch the financial assistance for grazing loss due to fire on federally managed land would be \$28,025.**

## **Summary**

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses because of a qualifying drought or fire.

LFP has a risk management requirement for program benefit eligibility. In Montana, for purposes of meeting the LFP risk management purchase requirement, a producer may purchase PRF insurance, pay for NAP coverage, or both.

Qualifying droughts are rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as follows: D2 (severe drought) which results in 1 month of payment, D3 (extreme drought) which results in 2 months of payment, and D3 (extreme drought) for at least 4 weeks and D4 (exceptional drought) which result in 3 months of payment. The monthly payment rate is 60 percent of the smaller of the monthly payment rate times the number of head or 60 percent of the maximum animal unit months times the animal unit month forage rate.

LFP also provides compensation for grazing losses due to fire that occurs on federally managed lands. The payment is 50 percent of the estimated monthly feed cost for the number of days the producers is prohibited from grazing the managed grazing land because of fire. The estimated feed cost is the smaller of (1) 50 percent of the permitted animal units times the normal grazing days times the animal unit daily rate or (2) 50 percent of the reduced animal units times the reduced grazing days times the animal unit daily rate.



## Appendix A: Selected Definitions

- *Adult beef bull:* A male beef breed bovine animal that was at least 2 years old and used for breeding purposes before it died.
- *Adult beef cow:* A female beef breed bovine animal that had delivered one or more offspring before dying. A first-time bred beef heifer shall also be considered an adult beef cow if it was pregnant at the time it died.
- *Adult dairy bull:* A male bovine dairy breed animal at least 2 years old and used primarily for breeding dairy cows before it died.
- *Adult dairy cow:* A female bovine dairy breed animal used for the purpose of providing milk for human consumption that had delivered one or more offspring before dying. A first-time bred dairy heifer shall also be considered an adult dairy cow if it was pregnant when it died.
- *Agricultural Operation:* A farming operation.
- *Commercial Use:* Used in an operation of a business activity engaged in as a means of livelihood for profit by the eligible producer.
- *Contract:* A written agreement, with respect to the handling of livestock, between a livestock owner and another individual or entity setting the specific terms, conditions, and obligations of parties involved about the production of livestock or livestock products.
- *Equine Animal:* Domesticated horse, mule, or donkey
- *Farming Operation:* Business enterprise engaged in producing agricultural products
- *Federal Agency:* With the respect to the control of grazing land, an agency of the Federal Government that manages rangeland on which livestock is generally permitted to graze. For the purposes of LFP, it includes, but is not limited to:
  - BIA
  - BLM
  - FS
- *Non-adult beef cattle:* A beef breed bovine animal that does not meet the definition of adult beef cow or bull. Non-adult beef cattle are further delineated by weight, categories of less than 400 pounds, 400 to 799 pounds, or 800 pounds or more at the time they died.
- *Non-adult dairy cattle:* A dairy breed bovine animal, of a breed used for the purpose of providing milk for human consumption that does not meet definition of adult dairy cow or bull. Non-adult dairy cattle are further delineated by weight categories of less than 400 pounds, 400 to 799 pounds, or 400 pound or more at the time they died.
- *Normal carrying capacity:* With respect to each type of grazing land or pastureland in a county, the normal carrying capacity that would be expected from the grazing land or pastureland for livestock during the normal grazing period in the country, in the absence of drought or fire that diminished the production of the grazing land or pastureland.
- *Normal grazing period:* With respect to county, the normal grazing period during the calendar year with respect to each specific type of grazing land or pastureland in the county served by the applicable COC.

- *Poultry*: Domesticated chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese. Poultry are further delineated by sex, age, and purpose of production or production as determined by FSA.
- *Sheep*: Domesticated, ruminant mammal of the genus *Ovis*.
- *Swine*: Domesticated omnivorous pig, hog, and boar. Swine are further delineated by sex and weight as determined by FSA for loss calculations.
- *U.S. Drought Monitor*: System for classifying drought severity according to a range of abnormally dry to exceptional drought. It is a collaborative effort between Federal and academic partners, produced on a weekly basis, to synthesize multiple indices, outlooks, and drought impacts on a map and in narrative form. This synthesis of indices is reported by the National Mitigation Center at: <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>.

Table A-1: Montana Grazing Periods, Grazing Days, and Acres/Animal Unit by Eligible Grazing Types

County	Grazing Period	Grazing Days	Grass Non-Irr Native	Non-Irr Tame	Annual Non-Irr Forage
Beaverhead	5/01 – 11/15	199	19.50	19.50	4.88
Big Horn	5/01 – 11/15	199	19.50	9.75	4.88
Blaine	5/15 – 11/15	185	30.00	18.00	4.50
Broadwater	5/15 – 12/01	201	19.50	19.50	4.88
Carbon	5/01 – 11/15	199	19.50	6.50	4.88
Carter	5/01 – 12/01	215	21.00	10.50	5.25
Cascade	5/15 – 12/01	201	22.75	16.25	4.88
Choteau	5/01 – 12/01	215	28.00	15.40	5.25
Custer	5/01 – 12/01	215	21.00	14.00	5.25
Daniels	5/01 – 11/15	199	32.50	9.75	4.88
Dawson	5/01 – 12/01	215	21.00	9.75	4.88
Deer Lodge	5/01 – 11/15	199	26.00	13.00	4.88
Fallon	5/01 – 12/01	215	21.00	10.50	5.25
Fergus	5/01 – 12/01	215	21.00	14.0	5.25
Flathead	6/01 – 11/15	168	27.50	11.0	4.13
Gallatin	6/01 – 12/15	198	32.50	16.25	4.88
Garfield	5/01 – 12/01	215	24.50	10.50	5.25
Glacier	5/01 – 11/30	214	21.00	7.00	5.25
Golden Valley	5/01 – 12/01	215	28.00	17.50	5.25
Granite	5/01 – 11/15	199	26.00	13.00	4.88
Hill	5/10 – 11/30	205	21.78	13.40	5.03
Jefferson	5/25 – 12/15	205	26.80	16.75	5.03
Judith Basin	5/15 – 11/15	185	22.20	9.00	4.50
Lake	5/01 – 11/15	199	29.25	13.00	4.88
Lewis and Clark	5/01 – 12/15	229	22.50	16.05	5.63
Liberty	5/01 – 12/01	215	34.30	17.50	5.25
Lincoln	6/01 – 11/15	168	27.50	16.50	4.13
Madison	5/25 – 12/15	205	26.80	16.75	5.03
McCone	5/01 – 11/15	199	26.00	16.25	5.63
Meagher	5/15 – 12/31	231	30.00	22.50	5.63
Mineral	6/01 – 11/15	168	22.00	11.00	4.13
Missoula	5/15 – 11/01	171	22.00	11.00	4.13
Musselshell	5/01 – 12/01	215	17.50	17.50	5.25
Park	5/15 – 12/15	215	28.00	21.00	5.25
Petroleum	5/01 – 12/01	215	28.00	21.00	5.25
Phillips	5/01 – 11/15	199	26.00	16.25	4.88
Pondera	5/01 – 12/01	215	35.00	21.00	5.25
Powder River	5/01 – 11/15	199	19.50	9.75	4.88
Powell	5/01 – 11/15	199	26.00	13.00	4.88
Prairie	5/01 – 12/15	229	22.50	18.75	5.63
Ravalli	5/01 – 11/15	199	26.00	19.50	4.88
Richland	5/01 – 11/15	199	19.50	13.00	4.88
Roosevelt	5/01 – 11/15	199	19.50	9.75	4.88
Rosebud	5/01 – 11/30	214	21.00	10.50	5.25
Sanders	5/01 – 11/15	199	32.50	13.00	4.88
Sheridan	5/01 – 11/15	199	19.50	9.75	5.03
Silver Bow	5/25 – 12/15	205	26.80	16.75	5.03
Stillwater	5/01 – 11/15	199	19.50	8.13	4.88
Sweet Grass	5/15 – 12/15	215	28.00	10.50	5.25
Teton	5/01 – 12/01	215	35.00	11.90	5.25
Toole	5/01 – 12/01	215	35.00	21.00	5.25
Treasure	5/15 – 11/30	200	19.50	9.75	4.88
Valley	5/01 – 11/15	199	19.50	9.75	4.88
Wheatland	5/15 – 11/15	185	27.00	18.00	4.50
Wibaux	5/01 – 12/01	215	21.00	10.50	5.25
Yellowstone	5/01 – 10/31	184	21.00	9.00	4.50

**Table A-2: Animal Unit Equivalent by Animal Type**

<b>Animal Type</b>	<b>Animal Unit Equivalent</b>
Dairy Cow	2.00
All Bulls 2 years or more	2.00
Cattle, buffalo or beefalo 1 year old or more	1.00
Adult cow with nursing calf	1.00
Horses or mules 1 year old or more	1.00
Cattle, horses, mules, buffalo, or beefalo 6 months to 1 year old	.50
Deer	.25
Sheep or Goats	.25
Lambs or kids	.14
Reindeer	.22
Alpaca	.82
Llama	.36
Emu	.51

\* Animal Unit (AU) is a standard expression of livestock based on a daily net energy maintenance requirement equal to 13.6 Mcal.

*The authors gratefully acknowledge the cooperation of the program staff of the USDA Farm Service Agency's Montana State Office for providing handbook materials and reviews of this publication.*



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