



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Mark Gordon  
Governor  
State of Wyoming  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

JAN 31 2020

Dear Governor Gordon:

Thank you for your letter of December 5, 2019, requesting a primary county disaster designation for Laramie, Goshen, Platte, Park, and Big Horn Counties, Wyoming, due to damages and losses caused by powerful snowstorms and freezing temperatures that occurred during the 2019 Crop Year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation; therefore, I am designating Big Horn and Park Counties in Wyoming as primary natural disaster areas, in two 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. Laramie, Goshen, and Platte Counties did not sustain a 30 percent crop production loss; therefore, I am unable to approve your request to designate those counties as primary natural disaster areas.

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 and takes 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 dark ink that reads "Sonny Perdue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sonny Perdue  
Secretary

Enclosure

Disaster Designation Areas for Wyoming and a Contiguous State

Designation Number 1: Freeze that occurred during October 9, 2019, through November 6, 2019:

**Primary County:**

Wyoming (1)  
Park

**Contiguous Counties:**

Wyoming (5)  
Big Horn Hot Springs Washakie  
Fremont Teton

**Contiguous Counties in an Adjacent State:**

Montana (3)  
Carbon Gallatin Park

Designation Number 2: Excessive snow and freeze that occurred during October 9, 2019, through November 6, 2019:

**Primary County:**

Wyoming (1)  
Big Horn

**Contiguous Counties:**

Wyoming (4)  
Johnson Park Sheridan Washakie

**Contiguous Counties in an Adjacent State:**

Montana (2)  
Big Horn Carbon