



Montana Stockgrowers Association
October 1, 2025
Guide to Relevant Federal Agency's Shutdown Protocols

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

- New World Screwworm: Emergency efforts to combat the New World screwworm outbreak in Mexico will continue uninterrupted.
- Animal Diseases: Emergency efforts to combat HPAI, African swine fever, and bovine TB will continue uninterrupted.
- Wildlife Services: Wildlife Services is not specifically named in USDA's updated shutdown guidance. Based on other portions of the document, it is possible that any wildlife damage management projects that are conducted as reimbursable cooperative agreements will continue uninterrupted. Beyond that, assume that agency activities will halt. Producers should take extra care to thoroughly document, with writing/photos/videos, any depredation losses in case investigations are interrupted or delayed.

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

- Staffing: On day 1-10 of a shutdown, the only FSA staff on call will be minimal regional leadership and headquarters staff, in case of a natural disaster. From day 10 onwards, if the shutdown continues, each FSA service center will be required to have one farm loan employee and/or one county office farm program employee on call to complete certain loan processing items to protect the security interest of the government and to prevent the loss of security or loss of value to security for the borrower.
- Loan Actions That Will Continue: From day 10 onwards, staff will be able to continue liens, process protective advances, and review a borrower's account to gather the necessary information to respond to a bankruptcy notification.
- Loan Actions That Will Halt: Accepting and processing farm and commodity loans (even if harvest-related), advancing funds on approved loans, obligating loans previously approved, loan closings and issuing guarantee loan conditional commitments, issuing direct loan approval notification letters, and processing any new applications will halt during the shutdown.
- Disaster Assistance: Implementation and processing of weather-related disaster assistance payments – including any remaining Supplemental Disaster Assistance programs like ELRP 2023 and 2024 for Flood and Wildfire – will halt during a shutdown.

United States Forest Service (USFS)

- Staffing: Approximately 12,000 employees out of 32,000 will be furloughed. The agency will pause non-essential functions.
- Special Use Permits: Processing will be delayed, if SUPs exist outside existing grazing authorizations.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

- Staffing: Approximately 4,000 of the agency's 9,200 staff are expected to be furloughed.
- Grazing Activities: Fall/winter/year-round grazing activities should not be affected; new grazing permits may be delayed if the shutdown persists longer than 5 days.



United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

- Staffing: Approximately 4,600 of 7,000 staff are expected to be furloughed.
- Refuge areas accessible to the public where staff are not necessary to access the area will remain open, but most of the 600 refuge units will close

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

- Cattle Contract Library Pilot Program: Updates to the cattle contract library will continue.
- LMR/Mandatory Price Reporting: Market news information, as required for commodities and agricultural markets will continue.
- Packers and Stockyards: Will cease operations during a lapse.

Farm Credit Administration (FCA) and Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation

- FCA operations will continue as usual.
- The agency does not expect any lapse in the service that it provides as a safety and soundness regulator.

Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation (FCSIC)

- FCSIC operations will continue as usual.