



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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# MONO COUNTY, *California's Eastern Sierra*

P.O. Box 696 · Bridgeport, CA 93517  
Phone (760) 932-5410 · Fax (760) 932-5411

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Jim Leddy – County Administrative Officer  
(760) 932-5410 - jleddy@mono.ca.gov

## **USDA Offers Resources for Drought Impacted Businesses** *Mono County farmers and ranchers encouraged to access*

**Mono County, Calif.** – On January 15, 2014, The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) designated nine counties in Nevada as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought. Mono County farmers and ranchers qualify for natural disaster assistance, because it is a contiguous county.

Mono County Board of Supervisors Chair Larry Johnston commented, “The continued lack of meaningful precipitation is impacting our community. We appreciate the resources being made available to help span this extraordinary dry spell and encourage local businesses to access these resources.”

All qualified farm operators in Mono County are eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from the USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. The FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses.

For more information please see the attached press release from the USDA, contact the Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner’s Office at (760) 873-7860, or go to the following website:

<http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

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Mono County offers a rural setting with the most spectacular landscapes in the state. Situated between the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the California/Nevada border, Mono County has a land area of 3,030 square miles, or just over 2 million acres, 94% of which is publicly owned. Much of this land is contained in the Inyo and Toiyabe National Forests. As a result, Mono County is home to vast scenic and recreational resources, and has unsurpassed access to wilderness and adventure.

The county is home to, and named after Mono Lake, which is a large high-desert saline lake. Also located in the county is the historic gold rush town of Bodie, which during its heyday in the late 1800's was home to as many as 7,000 people, and is today maintained as a State Historic Park for the public to come and enjoy. The county seat is proudly located in Bridgeport. Scenic Highway 395 weaves its way north-south through the heart of the county, effectively dividing the steep mountains to the west from the vast desert valley to the east. As it provides access to Yosemite National Park via Lee Vining, it passes beneath towering peaks, and past broad desert expanses.