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the LEADER

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THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

To help our fellow farmers and rural communities rebuild, we have designated the North Carolina Farm Bureau Foundation, Inc. to be our entity to receive donations.

We know from past weather events that there will be significant damage to pastures, fields, fencing, ditches and other infrastructure. There will be an acute need for funding financial planning programs, recovery planning programs, and mental health screenings. 100% of the donations we receive will directly support other non-profits and government agencies that work with farmers, farm workers, and rural communities and meet our high expectations for mission, efficiency, and quality services.

This is an unfolding statewide disaster and the funds will be used to best support farmers and the recovery efforts in their communities as they become apparent.

For those who wish to contribute, please make the check payable to: North Carolina Farm Bureau Foundation, Inc. and designate to Florence Relief Fund.

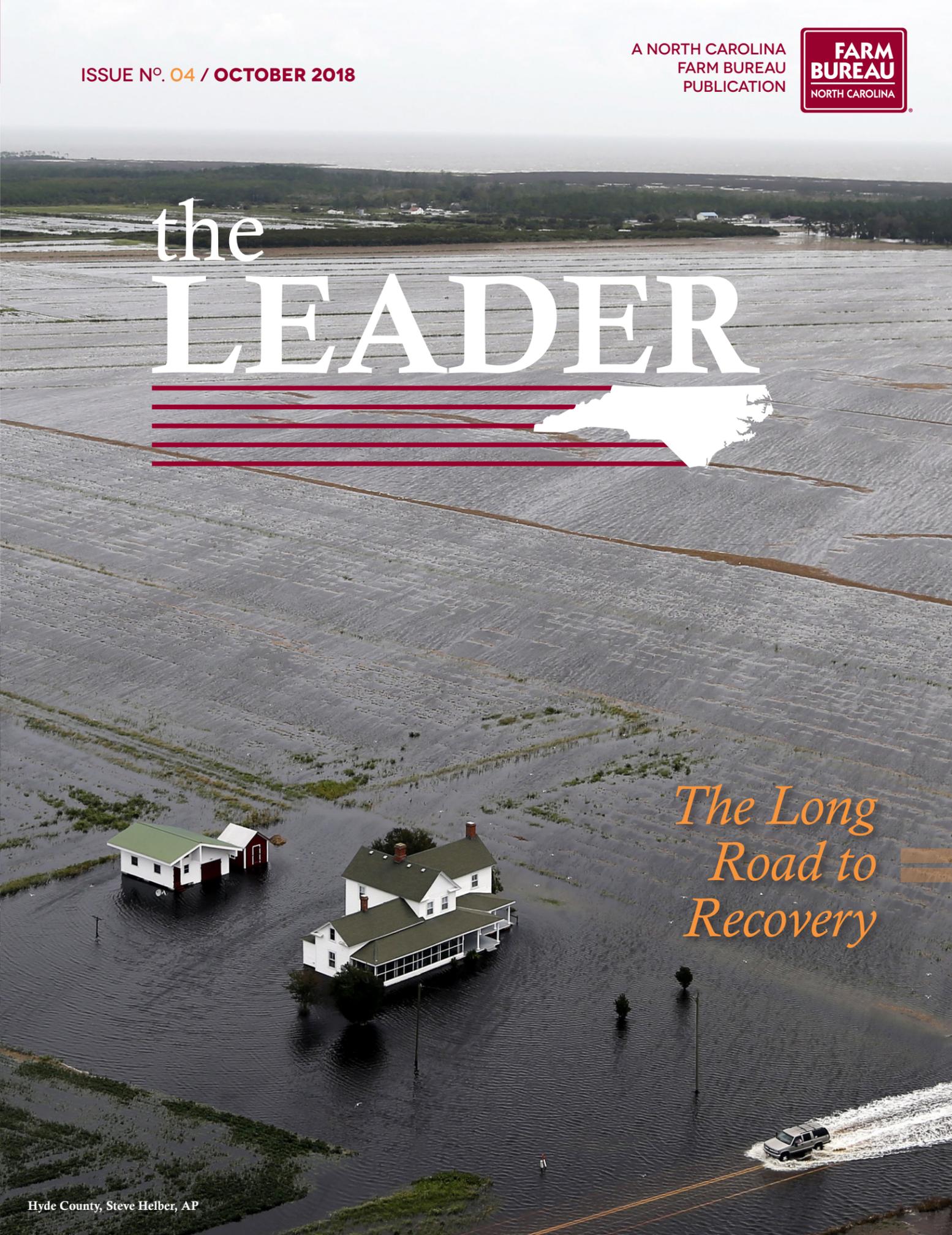
The Tax ID Number is: 55-0803862

The mailing address is: North Carolina Farm Bureau Foundation, Inc
Florence Relief Fund
PO Box 27766
Raleigh, NC 27611-7766
Attn: Perry Crutchfield, Treasurer

* To donate,
TEXT FARM
to 91999



Lumberton, Gerry Broome, AP



*The Long
Road to
Recovery*

Hyde County, Steve Helber, AP



INTERSTATE 40

THE LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY

by Larry Wooten

It felt like something out of a movie – it couldn't be real, what I was seeing. Roads and highways flowed like rivers. Homes were underwater up to the windows. Entire farms became temporary lakes, covered in several feet of water. Rotting crops and loss of livestock plagued farms that once thrived. Home after home, families were carrying out remnants of personal belongings. From the air, the devastation and destruction looked like a war zone right in our own backyard. Sadly, this is no movie – but it's a tragedy we know all too well.

Just two short years after the catastrophic flooding brought on by Hurricane Matthew, Eastern North Carolina has been hammered once again, this time by Hurricane Florence. Though the storms were separated by time, for many people they will feel like one ongoing disaster. Seeing the scale and severity of devastation Florence left in its wake – and knowing some communities are still struggling to recover from Matthew – is heartbreaking.

For farmers in particular, this hurricane couldn't have come at a worse time. The high winds of the stalled hurricane decimated cotton and corn crops, while the torrential rains flooded fields of tobacco, peanuts and sweet potatoes, to name a few. I've seen a lot during my time, but this is terrible. It's beyond terrible.

Farmers, I'm asking you to go to your FSA Office and report your losses, whether it be livestock, crops, or buildings. If you have crop insurance, also get in touch with your crop insurance agent and make them aware of the losses. **In the coming weeks, it is crucial that we make our voices heard. Our elected officials, both state and federal, must hear our stories and what our farmers are going through. They must understand what is needed for a full recovery.** This is all extremely important if we are going to have a successful recovery from Hurricane Florence.

There's no doubt in my mind that this will be a long road to recovery. It will test the strength of our rural communities and it will test the resolve of our farming community. Our farmers must once again show our strength and I know we have the grit and determination to get through this together. I've been overwhelmed by the generosity and selflessness we've already seen from folks both near and far. Ultimately, this recovery is going to take all of us coming together to support those faced with the daunting task of rebuilding their farms, their homes, and their lives.

ASSESSING THE DAMAGE

You've probably heard a lot of numbers thrown around estimating the agricultural damage caused by Hurricane Florence. While reports are still coming in, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services released its initial estimates for crop and livestock losses on September 26th, with total losses expected to be more than \$1.1 billion.

We knew the losses would be significant because it was harvest time for so many of our major crops and the storm hit our top six agricultural counties especially hard," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "These early estimates show just what a devastating and staggering blow this hurricane leveled at our agriculture industry.



ESTIMATED AG LOSSES

Row Crops	\$986.6 Million
Forestry	\$69.6 Million
Green Industry	\$30 Million
Vegetables and Horticulture	\$26.8 Million
Livestock, Poultry, and Aquaculture	\$23.1 Million
Poultry Losses (Head)	4.1 Million
Hog Losses (Head)	5,500

The truth is these are just estimates – we still don't know the true cost of the storm, and we probably won't know for quite some time. But in order to capture the full scope of ag losses, it is imperative that farmers report their losses.

