



P.O. Box 27766
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611
919.782.1705
NCFB.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Raleigh, N.C.
Permit No. 825

the **LEADER**

the **LEADER**

2018 HURRICANE FLORENCE DISASTER RECOVERY ACT

On October 16th, Governor Roy Cooper signed the 2018 Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Act, the State's first major step in providing financial assistance following the September storm. While this action shows that the State is serious about its role in helping residents, businesses, and farmers recover, it is only the first step on the long road to recovery. It is imperative that our leaders continue to understand the full impact of this disaster on our state's farmers and that they meet that need fully and in a timely fashion.

DISASTER RECOVERY EFFORTS

DISASTER RECOVERY EFFORTS



CHARLES MOSTOLLER/BLOOMBERG / BLOOMBERG VIA GETTY IMAGES



While this action shows that the State is serious about its role in helping residents, businesses, and farmers recover, it is only the first step on the long road to recovery. Upon signing the bill into law, Governor Cooper said, “we must continue to work together to provide more for [...] farmers.” Echoing that sentiment, Senator Brent Jackson said, “this will not be the last bill we do.” It is imperative that our leaders continue to understand the full impact of this disaster on our state’s farmers and that they meet that need fully and in a timely fashion. That means it is also imperative that if you have a loss, you document and report it.

North Carolina Farm Bureau has also established the Hurricane Florence Relief Fund to support recovery efforts for our state’s farmers and rural neighbors,

such as purchasing and trucking hay, pasture/field restoration and reseeding, financial counseling, and stress management. It will take years for North Carolina farm families and rural communities to recover from Hurricane Florence – we will be there with them every step of the way.

It has only been a few weeks, but the outpouring of support has been overwhelming. Not only have we received \$100,000 donations from Duke Energy and Bayer CropScience, but we have also received donations from across the nation, donations large and small, from within the Farm Bureau family and from individuals with no ties to our state. But what we do have is a common bond – agriculture. When farm families and rural communities are in need, we come together. Thank you to all those who have contributed.

On October 16th, Governor Roy Cooper signed the 2018 Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Act, the State’s first major step in providing financial assistance following the September storm. The law allocates nearly \$850 million for disaster recovery efforts, about half of which will be made available now while the other half will be held in reserve for future needs.

The NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services received \$70 million for existing programs that “assist farmers with recovery activities such as hay relief, pasture renovation, non-field farm road repair, best management practices renovations, reforestation efforts, and to provide federal matches as needed.”

Additionally, the law establishes the Hurricane Florence Agricultural Disaster Program of 2018. In doing so, the General Assembly noted that the storm was particularly devastating for farmers and the state’s agriculture industry, which it called “a vital component to a healthy state economy” due to its significant economic impact, and said that “the State has a significant public interest to prevent the economic collapse of many of the State’s farms, which could cause a severe disruption in the State’s economy and food supply chain.”

This grant program will provide direct assistance to farmers who suffered losses due to Hurricane Florence;

however, **the program is not yet funded**, so we won’t know how much assistance affected farmers will get until the General Assembly appropriates funds. Here are some eligibility and application highlights:

ELIGIBILITY

Farmers must have a verifiable loss as a result of Hurricane Florence

Farm must be located in a county that has been designated under a federal disaster declaration

Commodities must have been planted on or before September 13, 2018

TO APPLY

Visit www.ncagr.gov and complete your online application by December 10, 2018

Submit a Form 578 on file with FSA, a NCDA&CS Acreage Reporting Form, or a copy of payment or registration of loss for USDA Livestock Indemnity Program and a completed W-9

For complete information, please refer to www.ncagr.gov or contact your local Extension office.



Don’t Forget to Vote!

The devastation from two hurricanes in the last eight weeks makes it difficult to think about anything except recovery efforts. But, we must remember that an important date is rapidly approaching – Election Day. On November 6th, farmers and rural communities have a chance to make their voices heard. They have a chance to learn about incumbents, new candidates, legislation votes that affected them and even constitutional amendments, then make an informed decision that could impact our communities for a lifetime. In the last midterm election in 2014, only 36% of eligible voters voted; please do not sit this one out. Casting your vote with the best interest of farmers in mind is our best shot to have a say in who represents us. If you can, take a neighbor or a friend, but just be sure to vote.

Here are some resources to help you:

EARLY VOTING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17 – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

To find an early voting location, go to <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/ossite> Remember, you can register to vote at early voting locations!

ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

To find your polling location, go to <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/PPLkup/>

SAMPLE BALLOT

AVAILABLE NOW!

Go to <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/> Then enter your information and click ‘search’ to find your voter file. Then find your name and click on it (will be in blue). Then scroll down to “Sample Ballot” section and click on the blue link to the right!