



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Natural Resources Conservation Service
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Storm Damage Assistance Available for Agricultural Producers

TOLLAND, CT –Representatives from two agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) – seek to remind Connecticut’s agricultural producers that programs under USDA are available to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene.

Jay T. Mar, State Conservationist for NRCS; and Marsha Jette, State Executive Director, FSA; want people to know that there is help for producers who have sustained damage to crops, as well as for land where damage from flooding has occurred.

“The NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program was set up by Congress to respond to emergencies created by natural disasters,” said Mar. “It is designed to relieve imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fire, windstorms, and other natural occurrences. However,” he said, “all projects undertaken must be sponsored by the state, or a political subdivision of the state such as a city or town.”

“FSA has several programs that can be of assistance to agricultural producers who have sustained crop damage,” said Jette. “They include the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Farm Loan Program (FLP), Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program, and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP).”

- ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.
- NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters, if Risk Management Purchase Requirements (RMPR) have been met.
- Through FLP, landowners may receive emergency farm loans to help recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.
- SURE provides financial assistance for crop production and/or quality losses due to a natural disaster, if Risk Management Purchase Requirements (RMPR) have been met.
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- TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists to replace eligible trees, bushes, and vines damaged by natural disasters.

For additional information about EWP, contact your local NRCS Office: Brooklyn – 860.774.0224; Hamden – 203.287.8038; Norwich – 860.887.3604; Torrington – 860.626.8258; Windsor – 860.688.7725.

For more information about FSA programs, contact your local FSA Office: Brooklyn – 860.774.0224; Wallingford – 860.269.6665; Norwich – 860.887.9941; Torrington – 860.626.8258; Windsor – 860.688.7725.

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