

2024 Ag Disaster Crop Loss Program Funding and Payment Report Updated April 10, 2026

In 2024, several weather disasters and events resulted in all 100 counties being covered by a disaster declaration from the federal government (Stafford Act Presidential or USDA Secretarial). Consequently, the General Assembly appropriated funding for Helene-only counties and non-Helene counties with some funding overlapping in several counties. In essence, that created two different programs operating under common criteria.

This report is a follow up to the initial report provided to the General Assembly in October 2025. Since the initial report, much progress has been made but more remains to be done. Except for random issues, the non-Helene phase of the program is essentially complete. All non-Helene applications have been addressed, although there is an occasional inquiry regarding a payment that results in an adjustment being made. Not all applicants qualified for a payment primarily because their county average losses did not rise to the level that triggered a payment.

The Helene phase is ongoing with the bulk of the activity now centered on infrastructure losses that include structures, equipment, roads, bridges, culverts, ponds, stream bank restoration, and debris removal. This phase is more time-consuming because the applicant must provide documentation and in some cases engineering review is required.

For background, the department opened the application process on April 1, 2025, and it closed on May 19, 2025. Per legislation an extension was allowed for nursery crops, fruit-bearing trees and bushes, and specialty crops. That application period closed on July 1, 2025. After review and audit of all applications, 1168 applications were received for Helene-only counties, and 6,771 applications were received for non-Helene counties. It is important to note that the number of applications accepted exceeds the number of discrete farmer applications since each farmer applicant was required to apply for each county farming operation. Thus, some farmer applicants had more than one application.

Payments to applicants as of March 31, 2026, are:

- Helene-only aquaculture
 - 7 payments totaling \$849,372.37
- Helene-only nurseries
 - 568 payments totaling \$81,184,949.47
- Helene-only crops
 - 894 payments totaling \$13,803,611.02
- Helene-only infrastructure
 - 264 payments totaling \$8,605,107.39

- Non-Helene Crops
 - 6,075 payments totaling \$167,361,184.08
- Non-Helene nursery
 - 92 payments totaling \$15,214,208.68

The grand total of Helene and non-Helene payments is 7,900. The department has established a public facing dashboard where one can click on a particular county and see the number of payments and the total dollar amount for that county. The dashboard can be filtered by payment categories as well as by Helene, non-Helene, and combined counties that received payments in both categories. The website is <https://www.ncagr.gov/ag-disaster-dashboard> If a county received five or fewer payments, the number is payments is not shown. The dashboard is updated at least weekly and sometimes more often depending on activity.

The chart below shows actual fund transfers as of March 31, 2026, as reflected in the NC Financial System. Not reflected in the chart is the on-going process of reviewing payments and making necessary corrections along with payments made after March 31. As of March 31, 2026, no grant payment refunds have been received.

AMU	Total Expenditures (3/31/26)
1001814-HELENE CROP & INFR LOSS (SL 2025-2 - ROUND 1)	\$ 64,632,241.30
1001815-NON-HELENE CROP & INFR LOSS (SL 2025-2 - ROUND 1)	\$ 109,386,297.00
1001816-CROP LOSS ADMIN - 2024	\$ 1,022,584.89
1001819-HELENE CROP & INFR LOSS (SL 2025-26 - ROUND 2)	\$ 0
01001820-NON-HELENE CROP & INFR LOSS (SL 2025-89 - ROUND 2)	\$ 73,189,145.76
1001821-HELENE CROP & INFR LOSS (SL 2025-89 - ROUND 3)	\$ 39,810,798.95
Total	\$ 288,041,067.90

The department has been awarded a USDA Block Grant to address certain Helene County agricultural losses. The Block Grant will complement the State Disaster Program, especially in areas of timber loss, market loss revenue, future economic loss, and certain infrastructure. The general application window opened March 30 and will close May 15. The timber portion will open April 30 and close June 12.

The following list shows total payments by county for the 39 declared Helene counties based on dashboard data. These totals may differ slightly from the totals on page 1, which were pulled from the March 31, 2026, NC Financial Report. The variance is simply due to the timing difference between the official financial reporting cycle and when payments are reflected on the dashboard.

Below is a list of Helene Counties and the obligated/paid grant payments to each. It should be noted that many applicants filed both Helene and non-Helene claims.

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) Alexander - \$1,349,454.33 | 21) Lincoln -\$810,014.61 |
| 2) Alleghany - \$879,799.86 | 22) Macon -\$170,398.62 |
| 3) Ashe - \$7,875,346.84 | 23) Madison -\$221,084.52 |
| 4) Avery - \$6,661,778.31 | 24) McDowell -\$8,070,302.68 |
| 5) Buncombe - \$3,663,669.10 | 25) Mecklenburg -\$28,116.74 |
| 6) Burke - \$21,494,726.27 | 26) Mitchell -\$922,103.14 |
| 7) Cabarrus - \$277,241.99 | 27) Nash -\$5,857,917.57 |
| 8) Caldwell - \$12,715,760.56 | 28) Polk -\$1,436,318.90 |
| 9) Catawba - \$333,392.10 | 29) Rowan -\$1,131,710.16 |
| 10) Cherokee - \$111,200.12 | 30) Rutherford -\$1,536,847.07 |
| 11) Clay - \$79,404.02 | 31) Stanly -\$626,169.70 |
| 12) Cleveland - \$956,116.33 | 32) Surry -\$1,922,568.13 |
| 13) Forsyth - \$1,008,248.53 | 33) Swain -\$96,621.10 |
| 14) Gaston - \$75,374.28 | 34) Transylvania -\$2,693,035.43 |
| 15) Graham -\$4,301.16 | 35) Union -\$1,124,770.14 |
| 16) Haywood - \$2,666,363.35 | 36) Watauga -\$524,999.18 |
| 17) Henderson - \$18,217,986.08 | 37) Wilkes -\$4,540,071.15 |
| 18) Iredell -\$1,452,028.95 | 38) Yadkin -\$4,087,931.45 |
| 19) Jackson -\$8,143.92 | 39) Yancey -\$5,052,305.13 |
| 20) Lee -\$1,240,195.77 | |