



2018 Hurricane Florence Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program Update

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North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

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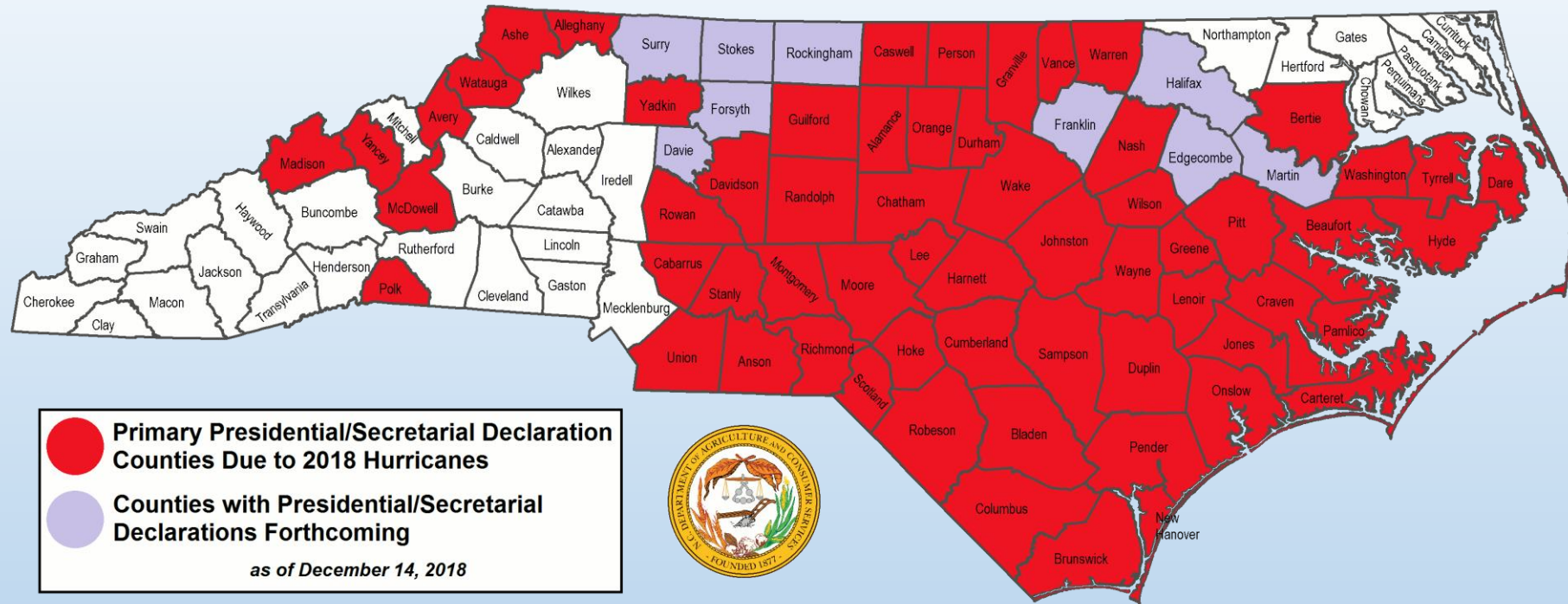
Overview/Purpose

- Hurricane Florence Ag Disaster Program set up in S.L. 2018-136.
- \$240 million appropriation set up in S.L. 2018-138.
- Commissioner of Agriculture given authority to determine funding needs after Hurricane Michael set up in S.L. 2018-138.
- Invest in North Carolina's largest industry which suffered \$1.1 Billion* in production losses from Hurricane Florence.
- Alleviate economic hardship and spur growth in counties most affected by Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael.
- Quickly provide direct assistance to farmers most affected by these disasters in order to:
 - Assist with managing debt related to Florence & Michael, previous disasters, and chronic low commodity prices.
 - Provide cash flow to maintain agriculture and its multiplier effect for rural economies.

*Based on initial 35 counties

Eligibility

- Farmers in Presidential and Secretarial-declared disaster counties.
- Farmers who had planted, but not harvested, on or before September 13, 2018

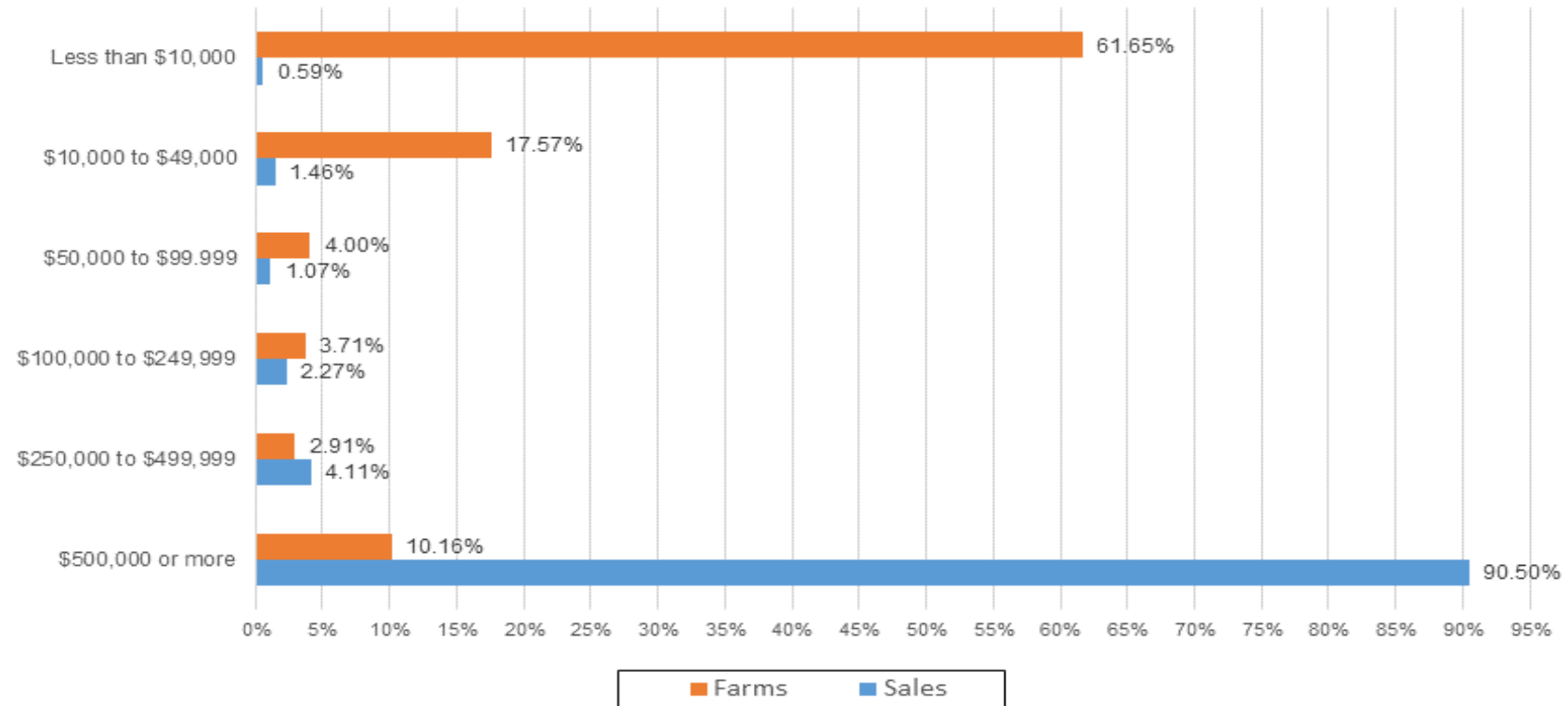


*Note: County eligibility subject to change.

Eligible Commodities

Crops	Livestock	Aquaculture
Apples, barley, corn, cotton, dry peas, flax, forage, freezing and canning peas, grain sorghum, grapes, hay, industrial hemp, native grass, nursery crops, nuts, oats, peanuts, potatoes, rye, soybeans, sunflowers, sweet corn, tobacco, tomatoes, wheat, specialty crops, other fruits & vegetables. *Does not include stored grain	Cattle, sheep, swine, goats, farmed cervids, bison, chickens, quail and turkeys. Horses, mules or other equines qualify only if they are used for production of agricultural commodities.	Must be propagated or reared in a controlled environment (catfish, crawfish ponds, shellfish, etc.).

North Carolina Farms and Sales Percentages 2012 Census of Agriculture



Top Ten Commodity Applications*

	Commodity	Total Acres Claimed by Applicants
1	Soybeans	1,290,735.3
2	Corn (for grain)	498,569.8
3	Cotton	337,301.2
4	Tobacco (flue-cured)	146,711.6
5	Peanuts	79,995.3
6	Grass (cut hay, millet, mixed forage, triticale, lespedeza)	78,332.5
7	Sweet potatoes	74,734.7
8	Grain sorghum	5,100.3
9	Beans (all)	4,052.4
10	Peas (Southern field)	3,803.4

Qualifications



- For Crops:
 - Acreage reported to USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) on FSA Forms as specified in the application.
- For Livestock:
 - Farmers must first qualify for and receive an indemnity payment through the USDA Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and provide documentation of loss.
- For Aquaculture:
 - Assistance will be based on losses incurred to unharvested seeded shellfish in a mariculture environment. Not based on landings/trip ticket portion.

What is Not Covered?

- Infrastructure.
- Stored forage losses (baled hay).
- Stored grain or other stored commodities.
- Quality Losses – Not directly covered but should be accounted for in FSA reported county average losses.

Current Challenges

- FSA offices closed due to partial federal government shutdown.
- Completed applications require proofing to ensure accuracy.
- Initial issuance of assistance checks will require more complete information than is currently available.

Partners

- USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA)
 - Provide county loss information, program information, requested documents from farmers, and other documents.
- Cooperative Extension
 - Provide program information, assistance with enrollment, and county loss estimates where needed.
- NCDA&CS
 - Provide program information, administration, county loss information where needed, reporting, auditing, and disbursement of appropriated funds.

Timeline

Farmer - County FSA Office

REPORTING FORMS - Form 578, Affidavit (in application), W-9 Form, and Extension (if needed)



Farmer - Home or with Assistance from Cooperative Extension

UPLOAD INFORMATION – Scan and Upload documents, Report Acreage, November 7 to December 20



NCDA&CS

COLLECT ALL LOSS INFORMATION by December 20, 2018



NCDA&CS

CALCULATE LOSS Based on Appropriation and Total Losses



NCDA&CS

MAKE PAYMENTS – As soon as possible after Jan. 1, 2019, reserving allocation for requested extensions

Accountability

- Farmer-provided information is only planted acres, nursery inventory, or livestock inventory.
 - Most easily verified information.
 - Documentation (ex. Form 578) must be uploaded with the online application.
- Requirement of affidavit
 - Provide penalties for submitting false information.
 - Allow for auditing at any time.
- Task force in each county
 - Composed of Extension, FSA, NRCS, Soil and Water, Regional Agronomists, and County Rangers provided loss estimates for each commodity (currently under review by a team of statewide commodity specialists).
- Each step in the process has reportable, reviewable information.

Purpose

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An aerial photograph of a flooded landscape. On the left, there are rows of green, rectangular floating vegetation mats. In the center, a small white boat is moving across the dark water, leaving a wake. A small white structure is visible near the boat. On the right, there are several green trees. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in white text in the center of the image.

Questions?