

2024 Agricultural Disaster Relief State of North Carolina Ask

Total funding request for the NC General Assembly from these combined events is \$1,046,200,000.

This represents 6.2% of the 2022 Farmgate Value of NC agricultural production (\$16.9 billion).

Estimated economic impacts to NC agriculture from Hurricane Helene total \$4.23 billion.

Hurricane Helene resulted in catastrophic damage in western North Carolina, leading to 39 counties being declared Presidential Disaster Areas. Agricultural production in the region is primarily specialty crops with limited federal crop insurance coverage.

Estimated economic impact to crop loss from other events is \$696 million. 2024 has been a challenging year for North Carolina agriculture. In addition to the devastation from Hurricane Helene, growers have faced historic droughts statewide at a crucial stage of the growing season, excessive rainfall, Tropical Storm Debby, Potential Tropical Cyclone #8 as well as a cicada brood hatch that had localized significant impacts.

To date, there are 93 counties in either a primary Presidential or Secretarial Disaster Declaration for 2024. Additional declarations are pending USDA approval. Disaster declarations originate with the County FSA Committee and must have minimum of 30% damage to any crop(s) to trigger the USDA designation process.

2024 Agricultural Disaster Relief State of NC Ask	
Hurricane Helene Uninsured Crop Losses	\$357.36 million
Hurricane Helene Losses Private Forest Land	\$33.44 million
Hurricane Helene Soil & Water Conservation Impacts	\$150 million*
Hurricane Helene Uninsured Machinery & Equipment Losses	\$32 million
Hurricane Helene Uninsured Farm Infrastructure Damages and Losses	\$299.4 million
Uninsured Crop Losses from Other Significant Natural Events in 2024	\$174 million
Total Amount Needed for Agricultural Disaster Relief	\$1,046,200,000

*Additional \$100 million will be requested in FY25-26 for
Hurricane Helene Soil & Water Conservation Impacts

Following is the analysis of how the impact numbers and request for funding were formulated.

Impacts to North Carolina Agriculture from Hurricane Helene

USDA-NASS 2022 Census data notes 20,494 farms in the declared counties with a farmgate value of \$4 billion. The value of farms and buildings in these counties is \$12.9 billion, and machinery and equipment valued at \$1.6 billion.

Crop Impacts: It is currently estimated that Helene impacted counties have production losses totaling \$907.62 million.

NCGA Ask: \$357.36 million to cover uninsured crop losses.

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES - COMMODITY LOSS BY CROP (MILLIONS)						
	Production Losses	Assumed Insurance %	Insurance \$ (Production Losses x Insurance %)	Uninsured Losses (Production Loss - Insurance \$)	Payment % from State Program	Payment \$ (Uninsured Losses x Payment %)
Soybeans	\$17.70	65%	\$11.51	\$6.20	20%	\$1.24
Corn & Other Grains	\$80.60	65%	\$52.39	\$28.21	20%	\$5.64
Vegetables & Melons	\$132.40	0%	\$-	\$132.40	50%	\$66.20
Apples & Other Fruits	\$48.50	65%	\$31.53	\$16.98	35%	\$5.94
Nursery, Sod & Christmas Tree	\$525.82	0%	\$-	\$525.82	50%	\$262.91
Tobacco	\$9.00	65%	\$5.85	\$3.15	20%	\$0.63
Cotton	\$2.00	65%	\$1.30	\$0.70	20%	\$0.14
Hemp & Cover Crops	\$7.90	20%	\$1.58	\$6.32	20%	\$1.26
Hay & Pasture	\$83.70	20%	\$16.74	\$66.96	20%	\$13.39
Total	\$907.62		\$120.89	\$786.73		\$357.36

Forestry Impacts: Estimate \$214 million in lost stumpage value in 17 high-impact counties; \$167.2 million on private land (642,733 acres).

NCGA Ask: \$33.44 million to cover 20% of damage to private forest land.

Soil and Water Conservation Impacts:

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION FUNDING NEED (MILLIONS)						
Needed Recovery Activity	Projected Total Cost	Projected Federal Funds	Projected State Share	Projected Farmer Cost Share	FY 24-25 State Need	FY 25-26 State Need
Stream debris removal and Streambank stabilization	\$333.25	\$250	\$83.25		\$49.950	\$33.3
Farm Road Repair	\$97.83	n/a	\$97.83		\$58.698	\$39.132
	\$20	n/a	\$20		\$12	\$ 8
Restoring Cropland and Pasture; Farm ponds; Fences	\$56.72	\$42	\$10.080	\$3.920	\$6.048	\$4.032
Newly required and repair BMPs	\$15.250	\$10	\$4.34	\$0.910	\$2.604	\$1.736
Technical assistance funding to assist BMP design/ implementation	\$4.5	n/a	\$ 4.5		\$2.7	\$1.8
Contract engineering assistance for conservation project design/oversight.	\$30	n/a	\$30		\$18	\$12
Total	\$557.55	\$302	\$250	\$4.83	\$150	\$100

NCGA Ask: \$150 million for current fiscal year. An additional \$100 million is not currently included in this ask and will be requested in FY 2025-26. Similar to previous agricultural disaster programs, funding needs to designated for conservation programs without being tied to specific funding categories outlined above.

Farm Infrastructure, Machinery and Equipment Impacts: NCDA&CS is aware of significant impacts to farm infrastructure and equipment but has limited quantitative data currently. Based on preliminary on-ground reports, we are estimating \$2 billion in farm infrastructure damage including aquaculture and livestock impacts. To quantify machinery and equipment damage, utilizing NASS data and assuming a 10% equipment loss, the economic impact is currently estimated to be \$160 million.

Aquaculture Impacts: Industry currently reporting \$1,066,125 in fish losses and \$8,113,875 in estimated infrastructure damage.

Livestock and Poultry Impacts: Impacts but no quantifiable damage at this time. Aware of significant infrastructure damages to one dairy operation, one poultry operation and one equine facility. No loss estimates at this time.

NCGA Ask: \$32 million to cover 20% of damage to farm machinery and equipment.

NCGA Ask: \$299.4 million to cover damage and losses to farm infrastructure.

Impacts to North Carolina crops from other significant natural events in 2024

Crop Losses: : It is currently estimated that crop production losses total \$696 million from other significant natural events statewide in 2024.

NCGA Ask: \$174 million to cover 25% of crop losses in non-Helene counties in 2024. Even when combined with crop insurance payments, this will not completely indemnify losses.

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES - COMMODITY LOSS BY CROP (MILLIONS)

Commodity	Main Event/Cause	Production Loss	Dollar Value	Payment % from State Program	Payment \$ (Uninsured Losses x Payment %)
Corn	Drought	60%	\$302	25%	\$75.50
Soybeans	Drought	6%	\$39	25%	\$9.75
Tobacco	Drought, Debby	35%	\$190	25%	\$47.50
Hay	Drought	20%	\$40	25%	\$10.00
Blueberries	Excess rain, cicadas	15%	\$15	25%	\$3.75
Watermelon	Drought, excess water	20%	\$10	25%	\$2.50
Sweet Potatoes	Drought	25%	\$76	25%	\$19.00
Pumpkins	Drought, excess water	25%	\$5	25%	\$1.25
Other vegetables	Mostly drought	15%	\$9	25%	\$2.25
Miscellaneous	Nursery/Other crops	--	\$10	25%	\$2.50
Total			\$696		\$174