



Helene Recovery

Updated (10/8/2024) - check back regularly for updated information. If there is a resource that would be beneficial to this information sheet please email krothwell@asapconnections.org.

In addition to the resources listed here, ASAP is available to work with Appalachian Grown farms on a one-on-one basis to help with specific needs.

How to use this resource:

In the below table of contents, grants are organized into the following sections: Financial Aid, Services for Farms, Farmworker Relief Services, and Clean-Up/ Recovery Efforts. You can also navigate using the outline to the left. We are working on adding resources as they become available. This is a working document.

Financial Assistance (Grants and Loans):

- [2024 Appalachian Grown Farmer Immediate Needs Grant](#)
- [USDA Tree Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#)
- [FSA Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#)
- [FSA Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish \(ELAP\)](#)
- [FSA Emergency Conservation Program \(ECP\)](#)
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- [Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture - cold storage and cleanup volunteers](#)
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- [The Farm & Ranch Stress Assistance Network-NC \(FRSAN-NC\)](#)
- [SC AgriWellness](#)

Services for Farmworkers:

- [Southern Smoke Foundation Emergency Relief Fund](#)

- [Day One Relief- NC](#)
- [North Carolina Farm Bureau Foundation Disaster Relief Fund](#)

Grants

(Grant) [2024 Appalachian Grown Farmer Immediate Needs Grant](#)

Who Is Eligible? Applicants must be certified Appalachian Grown. Nonprofits are not eligible at this time.

What activities are eligible? This grant is intended to support farms with significant losses due to disasters. Farmers may apply for up to \$500 to cover immediate needs and expenses towards cleaning, replanting, repairing, or other costs not covered through insurance or other available programs that will allow the farm to quickly respond or recover.

How Much? \$500

Application: Now accepting applications [here](#).

Contact: David Smiley David@asapconnections.org

(Grant) [USDA Tree Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#)

Who is eligible? Farmers that have suffered more than a 15% mortality rate due to a natural disaster. Eligible trees, bushes, and vines are those from which an annual crop is produced for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are not eligible for TAP assistance.

What activities are eligible? Replanting or remediation of eligible trees. Trees must be planted within 12 months of application being approved.

How Much? 75% of the planting or remediation costs up to 1000 acres.

Application: Contact your local FSA office to apply. Apply within 90 days of the disaster.

Contact: Visit farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator to find your local FSA office. -

(Grant) [FSA Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish \(ELAP\)](#)

Who is eligible? Farms that have lost livestock or have had increased costs keeping livestock due to a weather event or disaster.

What activities are eligible? Assistance to help cover above normal costs to transport livestock to feed and/or transport feed/forage to livestock in hurricane-impacted states. Assistance to help cover above normal costs to haul water to livestock in hurricane-impacted states.

How Much? TBD

Application: Contact your local FSA office to apply. The ELAP application period ends Dec. 31 of each calendar year.

Contact: Visit farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator to find your local FSA office. .

(Grant) [FSA Emergency Conservation Program \(ECP\)](#)

Who is eligible? Farms that have been damaged due to natural disasters.

What activities are eligible? Activities to rehabilitate farmland. Emergency conservation actions including: removing debris from farmland, restoring fences and conservation structures, and providing water for livestock.

How Much? Up to 75% of the cost or up to 90% of the cost for producers who certify as limited resource, socially disadvantaged, or beginning farmers or ranchers. Up to \$500,000 per disaster event.

Application: Contact your local FSA office to apply.

Contact: Visit farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator to find your local FSA office. -

(Grant) [FSA Livestock Indemnity Program \(LIP\)](#)

Who is eligible? Any farmer whose livestock has faced mortality due to adverse weather.

What activities are eligible? View all [eligible livestock here](#).

How Much? 75% of market value up to \$500,000 per disaster event.

Application: An eligible adverse weather event must occur in the calendar year for which benefits are requested. Contact your local FSA office to apply.

Contact: Visit farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator to find your local FSA office. -

(Grant) Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)

Who is eligible? Anyone in an emergency watershed area that has been damaged by a natural disaster. Public and private landowners are eligible for assistance but must be represented by a project sponsor.

What activities are eligible? Removing debris from streams, road culverts and bridges. Reshaping and protecting eroded streambanks. Establishing vegetative cover on critically eroding lands. Repairing levees and certain conservation practices. EWP Buyouts.

How Much? 75% of eligible construction costs of emergency measures.

Application: Contact your local NRCS office. Locate your office by visiting: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center>

Contact: NC EWP Program Manager: Jim Kjølgaard 919-873-2130 jim.kjolgaard@usda.gov

SC EWP Program Manager: Rachel Whilden 770-229-7797 rachel.whilden@usda.gov

TN EWP Program Manager: Alton Miller 615-277-2561 alton.miller@usda.gov

GA EWP Program Manager: Diane Guthrie 706-546-2310 diane.guthrie@usda.gov

(Grant) GA Organics - The Farmer Fund

Who is eligible? Farmer Members of Georgia Organics. Farm must be an established Georgia-based producer/grower (not a reseller). The farm must be using soil-based, sustainable production practices. The farm must sell to the public through a farmers market, CSA, wholesale outlet, or restaurants that serve Georgia families.

What activities are eligible? Offsetting crop losses, replanning beds, rebuilding high tunnels and hoop houses, repairing broken pipes, repairing irrigation, repairing fencing, repairing equipment, medical costs, and more.

How Much? TBD

Application: Apply by filling out this [google form here](#). Farm owners must apply within 60 days of a disaster.

Contact: Farmer Services Coordinator, Meg Darnell at meg@georgiaorganics.org.

(Grant) [NC Grange Disaster Fund](#)

Who is eligible? Members of the NC Grange

What activities are eligible? Activities to recover from losses.

How Much? TBD

Application: To request assistance through the Disaster Fund, submit to the State Grange President a written document describing the incident that occurred including the extent of damages. Indicate whether insurance coverage is in place. Describe the assistance needed beyond the coverage provided by insurance.

Contact: Send the request to: Jimmy Gentry, 1734 Wilkesboro Highway, Statesville, NC 28625 or jwgentry@ncgrange.com

[FSA Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#)

Who is eligible? An eligible producer is a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop and is entitled to an ownership share of that crop. This insurance must have been purchased prior to the devastating event.

What activities are eligible? Damaging weather, such as drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes.

How Much? Up to \$125,000

Application: Contact your local FSA office to apply.

Contact: Visit farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator to find your local FSA office.

(Loan) FSA Emergency Farm Loan Program

Who is eligible? Farmers located in counties that are contiguous to the declared, designated, or quarantined area may qualify for Emergency loans.

What activities are eligible? Activities involving rebuilding and recovering from sustained losses.

How Much? Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses to a maximum amount of \$500,000, excluding any duplicate payments such as crop insurance indemnity payment or other government payments. For current loan interest rates visit fsa.usda.gov/farmloans

Application: Applications must be received within eight months of the disaster.

Contact: Visit farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator to find your local FSA office.

(Loan) Mountain BizWorks: Helene Business Response Fund

Who is eligible? Small business owners in the SBA Helene Disaster declaration Area: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey.

What activities are eligible? Working capital, bridge to federal aid, any business use to support recovery.

How Much? Up to \$100,000, up to a 6 year term. 1% rate and interest only payments for the first 12 months, then a 6% rate.

Application: Apply online [here](#).

Contact: wncstrong@mountainbizworks.org or call 828-701-1525

FEMA Assistance

Who is eligible? Any farm that has been impacted by Helene.

FEMA Disaster Unemployment Assistance

DUA is available in these counties for weeks of unemployment effective Sept. 29, 2024, and may last for up to 26 weeks (or through March 29, 2025). Eligibility for DUA is determined weekly, and you must continue to be out of work as a direct result of the disaster each week to get unemployment benefits.

DUA is a federal unemployment program that provides temporary payments for people who, as a direct result of Hurricane Helene:

- No longer have the job that provided their primary source of income.
- Are unable to reach their place of employment.
- Cannot work because of an injury caused by the storm.
- Were unable to begin employment or self-employment due to the storm.
- Have become the major supplier of household income due to a storm-related death of the previous major supplier of household income.

Who is eligible? DUA benefits are available for residents of the following counties: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey Counties as well as the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina. Additional counties may be added to the list of those eligible for DUA at a later date.

Applications due 60 days after October 1st (12/2/2024)

Services for Farms

WNC Emergency Livestock Feed

Website: [WNC Livestock Exchange](#)

The WNC Livestock Center is providing many types of disaster livestock feed assistance (hay is very well stocked currently). Pickup is available at the WNC Livestock Center (474 Stock Dr, Canton, NC 28716). Delivery is available with coordination.

Who is eligible? Any farm affected by a natural disaster in NC, and experiencing issues accessing livestock feed.

Contact: Abby Whitaker, NC Extension, (704)418-5347, abby_whitaker@ncsu.edu

Livestock and Pet Feed in Avery and Mitchell Counties

Extension has Livestock and Pet Feed, Hay, & Supplies Available for Pick Up at Avery County Livestock South: 6880 Livestock Falls Hwy, Newland, NC 28657

Who is eligible? Farms in the area that need supplies. Farms in nearby counties accepted if needed.

Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture

Cold storage: If you sell through the High Country Food Hub and have product that needs freezer or fridge storage, get in touch. First come, first serve as space allows!

Cleanup/ volunteer support: Do you need support to help recover and rebuild at your farm? Our staff is reaching out to all of our producers to see what needs you have. Fill out the form or contact 828-412-0834 or info@brwia.org for help. [BRWIA Google form to request farm help](#).

Please Contact [Kendra Phipps](#) or [Laney Baker](#) directly with any farm supply needs.

Mental Health Pro Bono Referrals for WNC

Who is eligible? Anyone seeking mental health support after Helene.

What services are available? Free therapy or mental health resources from licensed providers

How much? Free

Contact: View the spreadsheet of resources [here](#).

The Farm & Ranch Stress Assistance Network-NC (FRSAN-NC)

Who is eligible? Farmers, farmworkers, or ranchers in NC

What Services are available? Free counseling services for farmers and farm families, and Farmer to Farmer peer support network.

How Much? Free

Contact: NC Farm Help Line at 844.325.3276 or info@ncfarmstress.org

SC AgriWellness

Who is eligible? Farmers, farmworkers, and their families in SC

What services are available? Free counseling services for farmers and farm families. SC AgriWellness is a resource to support farmers as they navigate the many issues contributing to overwhelming stress affecting the well-being of South Carolina farmers and farm families.

How much? When a SC farmer or farm family member initiates services (opens a case) with First Sun, he/she is entitled to three (3) sessions free of charge. The SC AgriWellness initiative will pay 100% of the fees incurred for this bundle of services. Cases are opened per individual, not per household. More than one person in the household may benefit from the services.

Contact: Call 1-800-968-8143 and reference “AgriWellness.”

Services for Farmworkers

(Grant) Southern Smoke Foundation Emergency Relief Fund

Who is eligible? Farmers, farmworkers, food and beverage workers that are unemployed due to a natural disaster.

What activities are eligible? Essentials like groceries, clothing, and medications, the cost of rent, natural disaster damages, lost wages, and more. Ask for what you need.

How much? Funding determined by situation.

Contact: For questions about your case email casemanagement@southernsmoke.org

Day One Relief – North Carolina Hurricane Helene Response

Supporting BIPOC and LGBTQ+ organizations that need assistance after Hurricane Helene.

North Carolina Farm Bureau Foundation Disaster Relief Fund

Activated to deploy disaster recovery assistance in WNC after the immediate humanitarian needs have been met. Donations will be funneled to other organizations with boots-on-the-ground partners like Baptist on Mission, Red Cross, etc. Checks may be mailed to: North Carolina Farm Bureau Foundation, c/o: Disaster Relief Fund, PO Box 27766, Raleigh, NC 27611