

HOW TO APPLY FOR DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAMS

Disasters such as floods and droughts can severely impact your farming operation. Here is a simple guide to help you navigate disaster relief programs.

1

Identify Eligible Programs

Federal Programs - Start with USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for federal aid programs related to flood, drought or other extreme events.

- USDA FSA: www.fsa.usda.gov
- USDA NRCS: www.nrcs.usda.gov

State and Local Programs - Check with your state’s Department of Agriculture or local extension office for additional resources and support.

- Extension Offices Locator: www.extension.org
- Virginia Cooperative Extension: www.ext.vt.edu
- West Virginia Extension Service: www.extension.wvu.edu

Private Organizations - Some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or agricultural cooperatives may offer relief funding or resources.

2

Gather Necessary Documentation

Proof of Loss - Keep detailed records of damages, including photographs, receipts and notes on crop or livestock losses.

Financial Documents - Update income statements and financial records for your farming operation.

Farm History - Ensure you have records on past production, planting dates and yields for affected crops or livestock.



Download our **Recordkeeping resource guide for helpful tips and information.**

www.farmcreditofvirginias.com/knowledge-center/resources/farm-management-resources

3

Understand Program Requirements

Carefully read through eligibility criteria. Programs may have specific requirements based on the type of disaster and the extent of the damage.

Some programs may require that you’ve purchased crop insurance or are enrolled in other farm protection plans.

- USDA Disaster Assistance Programs: www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program

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4

Complete the Application

Fill out all required forms completely and accurately. If online applications are available, make sure you submit through the official portal or submit paper forms before the deadline.

5

Provide Additional Documentation if Needed

Some programs may request additional information during the review process. Respond promptly to any inquiries from program administrators to avoid delays in your application.

6

Follow Up

After submission, follow up with the program contact to ensure your application is being processed and to check on its status.

7

Stay Updated on Deadlines

Disaster relief programs may have strict deadlines for application submissions. Stay informed of important dates to ensure you don't miss out on available aid.

8

Seek Assistance if Necessary

Local FSA or agricultural extension agents can help guide you through the process and ensure you meet all requirements. Don't hesitate to reach out for support.

- USDA Service Center Locator: www.offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app



KEY TIPS FOR DEALING WITH DROUGHT OR FLOOD:

Develop a Risk Management Plan

Prepare early with a plan that addresses potential disasters.

Diversify your Operation

Consider diversifying your farm operation by exploring different income streams or products.

Implement Soil and Water Conservation Practices.

Consider techniques such as cover cropping and no-till farming to help retain moisture during droughts and drainage during floods.

Monitor Weather and Stay Informed

Regularly check weather forecasts and advisories during flood and drought seasons.

Have an Emergency Response Plan

Prepare for immediate action in the case of flooding or drought. Have a plan in place for evacuating livestock, protecting equipment and safeguarding farm records.



Sources: USDA Farm Service Agency, Farmers.gov, Disasterassistance.gov, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services