



# News Release

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## **Assistance Available for Flood Damaged Ag Land through NRCS**

*Raleigh, NC – September 18, 2018* — The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in North Carolina has established two special Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign ups to help farmers and ranchers that suffered damage to working lands and livestock mortality as a result of Hurricane Florence. EQIP is available to help farmers treat the on-farm problems caused by the high winds, rainfall and flood waters due to Hurricane Florence across the entire State of North Carolina.

An EQIP special sign up specific to agricultural livestock mortality and carcass disposal is now open and available to immediately assist producers in disposal of livestock carcasses on their farm. The first special sign up ends September 24, 2018, and a second will end on October 12, 2018.

NRCS is also now accepting EQIP applications from producers directly affected by Florence to apply conservation practices, to address resource concerns due to the hurricane, as well as agricultural livestock mortality carcass disposal.

If seeking NRCS assistance for an animal mass mortality event, as defined by the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA & CS) Veterinary Division (> 20% facility mortality), NRCS recommends that producers should immediately notify the NCDA &

CS Veterinary Division and/or NCDA & CS Emergency Services prior to filing an EQIP application per applicable state requirements.

Disaster management resources pertaining to agriculture, including mass mortality composting guidance are available at <http://www.ncagr.gov/disaster/>. The NCDA Ag Weather Emergency Hotline is 1-866-645-9403. The phone number for the NCDA & CS Veterinary Division Office is 919-707-3250. The phone number for the NCDA & CS Emergency Programs Division is 919-807-4300. NRCS will not be able to proceed with approval of an EQIP contract until any required NCDA & CS Veterinary Division notification by the producer occurs and can be documented by NRCS during the planning/contract development process.

Farmers and ranchers seeking NRCS financial and technical assistance can sign up for EQIP at their local NRCS office. Conservation practices available through this EQIP funding are specifically designed to address flood and wind damage, and excessive runoff to address natural resource concerns caused by the hurricane and provide future protection from exceptional storm events.

For more information contact your local USDA Service Center office in your county, call 1-919-873-2107 or visit the North Carolina NRCS Web site at [www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov). Information regarding EQIP can be found at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/nc/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcseprd1075408> .

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