



United States Department of Agriculture



Hurricane Resources



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ga.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA-NRCS

Our Mission

“Helping People Help the Land”

Collaborate with farmers, ranchers, communities and other individuals and groups to protect natural resources on private lands

Our Vision

Productive Lands, Healthy Environment



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Did You Receive Damage to your Farm or Ranch from Hurricane Michael?

- **Livestock Mortality**
- **Destroyed Cross Fences**
- **Damaged Trees**
- **Loss of Vegetation**
- **Excessive Erosion**

Maybe we can help!



How NRCS Can Help in Your Recovery Efforts



- **NRCS has an experienced staff of resource conservationists that are here to help you make a strategic plan for your land's recovery.**
- **We do not offer loans, but rather conservation programs that offer technical assistance and financial assistance to help producers implement conservation practices to address these resource issues on their land.**
- **Contact your local NRCS Field Office and Schedule an Appointment**



NRCS Conservation Programs

On a regular basis, we offer Conservation Program Funding including:

- Payments for conservation practices through programs such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Stewardship payments to help producers maintain and enhance their existing conservation systems
- Land protection through easement programs that enroll your land for safekeeping for your family and beyond
- Special group projects that would benefit group of producers that need to address a problem.

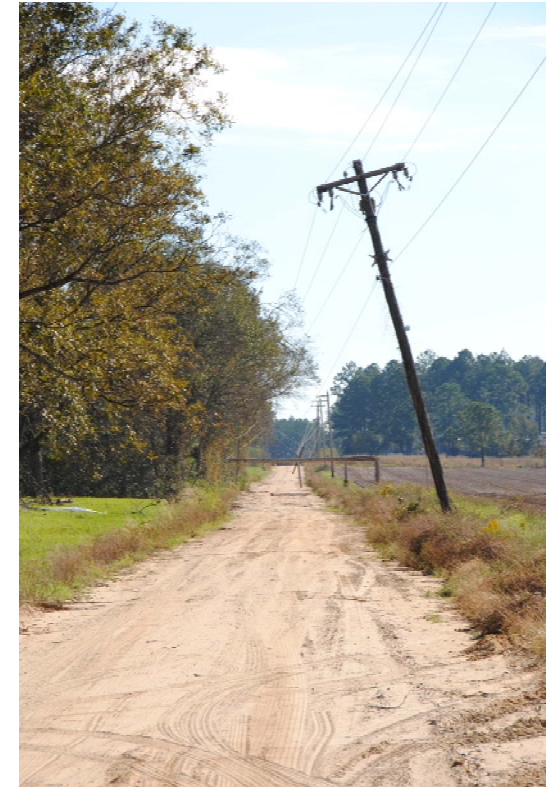
Additionally, we offer the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) to address watershed impairments from flooding and storm damage in local communities



EQIP for Michael Disaster Recovery

In response to Hurricane Michael, NRCS in Georgia has announced an Emergency Environmental Quality Incentives Program signup to assist farmers, ranchers and non-industrial forest landowners in the 13 major federal disaster declared counties:

- Baker, Crisp, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, and Worth.
- The batching sign ups deadlines are October 26 and November 16
- There is an additional signup for the other affected areas coming soon.



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Conservation Practices to Aid in the Recovery Process

Effective post-disaster strategies to help reduce erosion as well as improve plant and animal health include the following practices:

- prescribed grazing
- cross fencing
- watering facilities
- solar water pumps
- reseeding eroded or gullied areas.

Let us visit with you to see how we can help!



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Conservation Practices to Aid in the Recovery Process

Practice Standard 368 Emergency Animal Mortality – means or method for the management of animal carcasses from catastrophic mortality events.

Reduce surface and ground water impacts, reduce odors, decrease spread of pathogens

- **Open Air Burning** – burning of poultry mortality that resulted from collapse of chicken house.
- **Forced Air Incineration** – burning of poultry mortality in portable forced air incinerator



Practice Standard 368 Emergency Animal Mortality continued...

- **In-House Composting** – static windrow composting of poultry mortality within an existing structure
- **Outside Windrow Composting** – static windrow composting of poultry mortality outside
- **Burial** – on site burial of poultry mortality
- **Animal Mortality Disposal At Landfill** – disposal of poultry mortality in an approved Type D landfill



Conservation Practices to Aid in the Recovery Process

Practice Standard 318 Short Term Storage of Animal Waste and Byproducts – temporary, non-structural measures used to store solid or semi-solid, organic agricultural waste or manure on a short term-term basis between collection and utilization.

- **Poly Cover, Earthen Pad** – wet poultry litter than needs to be removed prior to house repair and restocking. Consists of a compacted earthen pad to store waste on a short-term basis. Cover is a 6-mil poly film that is anchored to the ground.



Conservation Practices to Aid in the Recovery Process

Practice Standard 326 Clearing and Snagging – removal of vegetation along the bank (clearing) and selective removal of snags, drifts, or other obstructions (snagging) from natural or improved channels and streams.

Reduce risks to agricultural resources or civil infrastructure by removing obstruction that hinder channel flow or sediment transport. Must meet all local, state and federal permitting requirements.

- **Clearing and Snagging** – Light – for 0 to 200 linear feet of stream or water course
- **Clearing and Snagging** – Medium – for 200 to 400 linear feet of stream or water course





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Interested in Applying?

What do I do, and what can I expect?



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EQIP Eligibility

- **Be an agricultural producer**
- **Control (lease) or Own Eligible Land**
- **Comply with Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) < \$900,000**
- **Be in compliance with the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation requirements**
- **Develop an NRCS conservation plan that addresses at least one natural resource problem (erosion, plant health, etc.)**



Applying for EQIP Assistance

- **First, sign an EQIP application and appendix. We can then begin working with you to develop your conservation plan to address the resource concerns you identify for financial assistance.**
- **Second, you will have to meet basic EQIP Eligibility Requirements:**
 - Contact the local FSA to develop the following records:
 - Need Farm Number
 - Need Tract Number
 - Declare all interests in the operation
 - Completed request to IRS to determine AGI is less than \$900,000
 - Obtain a SAM number/or SSN (if applicable)
 - Obtain a DUNS number (if applicable)
 - Complete a Power of Attorney form, if necessary
- **Third, NRCS requires additional information such as,**
 - Proof of Control of Land for Duration of Contract
 - Completed Direct Deposit form with voided check
 - Proof land is privately owned



What Happens Next?



- **NRCS local staff will set an appointment for a review of the resource concerns and develop a comprehensive ranking evaluation with cost estimates.**
- **Applications will then be ranked with other applications received to determine if they can be funded.**
- **If approved for funding, you will be responsible for paying for the practice implementation, with the approved funding amount being reimbursed upon completion and approval.**
- **Discuss with your district conservationist on when work can commence.**



What Happens Next? – continued

- **Prior to starting work outlined in the contract, you will receive specifications on what needs to occur to be eligible for payment.**
- **If it is an engineering practice (access roads, stream crossing, etc.), you will receive a design and specifications to complete the practice and earn the payment.**
- **Once the practice is completed, contact the office that has been assisting you and report completion.**
- **An NRCS employee will review the completed practice for assurance of standards and specifications (you received above). Once everything has been approved, your contract will be submitted for payment.**



What Happens Next? – continued

- **NRCS will ask you to sign a payment request form and will submit for reimbursement.**
- **If multiple practices are in your contract, the same format will be conducted for each.**
- **One conservation practice must be commenced within 1 year of signing the contract.**



Emergency Assistance Available through EWP (Emergency Watershed Protection) Program

- **For imminent threat to life and property from a watershed impairment caused by excessive flooding and wind damage**
 - Local units of government may request assistance
 - State
 - County
 - City
 - Conservation Districts
- **Debris removal**
- **Stabilization of Streambanks**
- **For more information visit:**
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ga/programs/planning/ewpp/> or
www.farmers.gov/recover



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