## Stakeholder Toolkit: Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton

**Description:** USDA staff is assisting farmers, ranchers, foresters, and landowners impacted by recent hurricanes. We're also working diligently to implement program flexibilities to help streamline the recovery process.

#### We need your help to spread the word to producers. This toolkit includes:

- Newsletter Article
- Sample Social Media
- USDA Hurricane Assistance Graphic English | Spanish
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Overview of USDA Program Flexibilities
- Box Folder for Graphics and Videos
  - o Keep checking this folder, as we'll add more assets as they are created.

#### Additional Disaster Assistance Resources and Links:

- <u>Hurricane Page</u> on Farmers.gov Assistance for Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton
  - o Includes most recent webinars, publications and news.
- USDA Disaster Assistance Programs at a Glance Factsheet English | Spanish
- Farmers.gov Hurricane Resources
- Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool
- Farm Loan Assistance Tool
- FSA Educational Hub on FarmRaise

If you have any questions, please contact <a href="FPAC.ISE@usda.gov">FPAC.ISE@usda.gov</a>.

#### **Newsletter Article**

# USDA Disaster Assistance Available to Help Producers Recover from Recent Hurricanes

USDA is working diligently to implement program flexibilities and waivers for producers impacted by recent hurricanes to help streamline your recovery process. Periodically check the <u>Hurricane</u> webpage on farmers.gov for updates and resources as we are regularly reviewing our disaster assistance programs.

Some of our current resources include:

- Overview of USDA Program Flexibilities for Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton Recovery
- 2024 Hurricanes Frequently Asked Questions
- Hurricane webpage with more information for hurricane-impacted producers.
- <u>Disaster Assistance at a Glance Brochure</u> with an overview of all disaster assistance programs.
- <u>Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool</u> to help with available disaster assistance.
- Farm Loan Assistance Tool to help determine program or loan options.
- FarmRaise educational hub to help with program decisions.

#### **Documenting Loss**

We encourage you to document damages and losses your operation has sustained as best you can, including gathering farm records, herd inventory, receipts and pictures of damages or losses. Livestock producers are advised to document livestock numbers by taking time and date-stamped video or pictures of injury or loss, to the extent possible. Please know that we recognize these are extremely extenuating and stressful circumstances and there may be instances where documentation is lost, destroyed or unattainable. Regardless, please contact us and we will do whatever we can to help you access the assistance you need.

#### **Reporting Loss**

Once you are able to safely evaluate the impact on your operation, be sure to contact your <u>local USDA Farm Service Agency</u> (FSA) county office or your crop insurance agent to report all crop, livestock and farm infrastructure damages and losses. For producers who have risk protection through <u>Federal Crop Insurance</u>, the <u>USDA Risk Management Agency</u> has authorized Approved Insurance Providers to provide flexibility on reporting requirements for those who are unable to report losses due the disaster.

#### **Getting Assistance**

When you're ready, we're ready. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your <u>local USDA Service Center</u>.

USDA has resources available through the FSA call center at 877-508-8364, or producers can access program information online at <u>farmers.gov</u>.

### Sample Social Media

Graphics for social media can be found in the Box folder.

#### X (formerly Twitter):

- Through a suite of disaster assistance programs, @USDA is offering program flexibilities to help ag producers recover from recent hurricanes. USDA staff is available to assist you when you are ready. Learn more: <a href="https://www.farmers.gov/hurricane">www.farmers.gov/hurricane</a>
- USDA has technical & financial assistance to help producers recover from recent hurricanes. Call your local USDA Service Center when you're ready to report your losses. Learn more: <a href="https://www.farmers.gov/hurricane">www.farmers.gov/hurricane</a>

#### Facebook:

Has your ag operation been impacted by recent hurricanes? USDA staff is available to assist when you are ready. USDA offers a suite of programs to help your ag operation recover, and we're also offering program flexibilities to streamline the recovery process.

Learn about documenting and reporting losses, programs available, flexibilities, and how to get assistance at <a href="https://www.farmers.gov/hurricane">www.farmers.gov/hurricane</a>.