



Dear Friends of Agriculture:

With the massive flooding experienced due to recent storms, I know many of you have sustained significant damages to your homes, farms and agricultural businesses. As you begin the rebuilding process, the state stands ready to act as a partner in ensuring efficient and timely assistance. Please utilize the following programs to help in your recovery efforts and reference the Presidential Disaster Declaration to ensure that you are taking full advantage of aid that is available during this trying time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George D. Greig".

George D. Greig
Secretary

Disaster Programs Available for the 2011 Crop Year

Conservation Programs:

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) - Provides emergency funding and technical assistance to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters. Eligible practices include debris removal, grading, shaping, re-leveling, restoring permanent fences, and restoring conservation structures. *USDA Farm Service Agency*

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) - The program provides technical and financial assistance to preserve life and property threatened by excessive erosion and flooding. Owners, managers and users of public, private or tribal lands are eligible for EWP assistance if their watershed area has been damaged by a natural disaster. *USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service*

Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easements - Provides for the purchase of floodplain easements as an emergency measure. Floodplain easements restore, protect, maintain and enhance the functions of the floodplain; conserve natural values including fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, flood water retention, ground water recharge and open space; reduce long-term federal disaster assistance; and safeguard lives and property from floods, drought and the products of erosion. *USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service*

Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) - Provides payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest land to carry out measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster. *USDA Farm Service Agency*

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) - Provides compensation to eligible producers on NAP coverable or insurable crop losses on prevented planted acreage, reduced production on planted acres, reduced quality on certain crops and/or on value loss crops including nursery and aquaculture. Producers must have crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops to be eligible and a portion of the farming operation must be located in a county declared a primary or contiguous Secretarial Disaster. *USDA Farm Service Agency*

Tree Assistance Program for Orchardists and Nursery Tree Growers (TAP) - Provides financial assistance to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, shrubs or vines damaged by natural disasters. Producers must have crop insurance or NAP coverage on the eligible crop. For example, apples must be covered for apple trees to be eligible. *USDA Farm Service Agency*

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) - Provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur as the result of a natural disaster. Producers must have obtained NAP coverage by the sales closing date for the crop, similar to crop insurance. *USDA Farm Service Agency*

Livestock, Honeybees and Farm Raised Fish Programs:

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) - Provides compensation for death losses of eligible livestock in excess of normal mortality. Losses must be due to an eligible disaster condition, and livestock must be maintained as part of a commercial farming operation. *USDA Farm Service Agency*

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) - Provides compensation for losses *not* covered under any other disaster program, specifically LFP, LIP and SURE. Program compensates for eligible death losses, loss of stored feed and excess feed costs when expenses are incurred due to eligible disaster conditions. In certain cases, producers must have crop insurance or NAP coverage to qualify, depending on the losses claimed. *USDA Farm Service Agency*

Loan Programs:

Emergency Loans - Eligible producers may obtain a low interest loan to assist in recovering from disaster events. A disaster designation (Presidential, Secretarial or Administrator's Physical Loss Notification) must be made for the county. Loan proceeds must be used for eligible expenses. *USDA Farm Service Agency*

U.S. Small Business Administration Loans - Whether you rent or own your home, own your own business, or own a small agricultural cooperative located in a declared disaster area and are the victim of a disaster, you may be eligible for financial assistance. *U.S. Small Business Administration*

Visit http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/Factsheet%20PA%2012822_0.pdf for information about loans available and deadlines for filing. Call Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955

Other Programs:

PAgrows - PAgrows helps agribusinesses access the money they need to begin, continue and expand their business. It provides one-on-one on farm assistance and presentations to various stakeholder groups. PAgrows also works directly with other state and federal agencies as well as their statewide service providers to help make the process of finding the right program and seeing it through to completion as simple as possible. *PA Department of Agriculture*
Call 1-888-724-7697 or visit www.PAgrows.com

Food Safety - Knowing how to minimize potential loss of food and reduce the risk of food borne illness will help you keep your family safe during an emergency. The www.EatSafePA.com website provides consumers with a wealth of information about food safety during emergency situations. *PA Department of Agriculture*
Call 1-866-366-3723

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) - Provides financial and reemployment assistance to certain individuals whose employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster. *PA Department of Labor and Industry*
Call 1-877-345-3382

Housing Assistance – The www.pahousingsearch.com/ website is a free service to list and find affordable homes and apartments across Pennsylvania. The service is to help those displaced by the September flooding, and provides links to help you find the help you need. *Program sponsored by various PA state agencies.*
Call 877-428-8844

**For more information on FSA (www.fsa.usda.gov)
and NRCS (www.nrcs.usda.gov) programs, contact your county FSA/NRCS office.
Phone numbers are available in the U.S. Government section of your phone book.
Federal Emergency Management Agency: 1-800-621-FEMA**

Note: Varying eligibility requirements may apply to all programs listed.