

**NCFMN holds all affected by Hurricane Helene in our hearts. We are grieving together. As we know, many farmers have lost their crops or even the very dirt they farmed on, suffered devastating blows to their facilities or businesses, and in some cases suffered lost lives.**

Below are some ways that market managers can help during this time (a huge thank you to Farmers Market Pros for leading with these ideas):

If you have access to internet, start a spreadsheet listing farmers, vendors and your team (and theirs if you have that info) and share with all. Reach out directly or through your networks to check on people's well being and needs. Enter names and updates so your market family can keep up and help where they're able.

Some farmers markets can't open due to damage to or inaccessibility of their sites. There are some markets and outlets that you can help direct farmers to. (See list in next section of options you can direct farmers to). We have also created a form ([Click here to access form](#)) to complete for markets in WNC or nearby counties who are able to accommodate any displaced vendors who still have product and need a place to continue sales. We will continue to add to the section below. Please share with vendors if you are able.

Share links to resources (see button up top). Remember though that in such stressful times folks may not have the attention span, or even the internet access, to read long sets of instructions in those links. Distill the info down to a few points that will be most helpful at each stage of recovery and share that quick note via any form of communication that's working.

If you have the capacity, update your website and social media so shoppers can also keep up with market schedules, wellness checks and the occasional "hang in there" note.

If you are able to hold your farmers market, do. Many farmers and vendors can't attend to sell - this is not a time to insist on attendance. Some can attend, and they still need to sell those crops and products. Consider waiving fees, flexible hours, etc. People need food as longer supply chains stumble with deliveries to impacted areas limited. Maybe most importantly, meeting at the market and seeing some familiar faces will also be a comforting slice of normalcy for both participants and shoppers who can make it.

If you are operating your market, consider a board or simple flyers to let shoppers know how they can help. Include links to Go Fund Me and other donation options. Prepare your team to answer questions about missing participants, then watch for signs of distress that show they need a break from sharing sad stories and updates.

# Agriculture Related Recovery Resource Links

## This is a living document last updated 10/9/24

### [ASAP Farmer Relief Fund Donation Link](#)

### [ASAP Appalachian Grown Farms Immediate Need Grants](#)

Resources for farms with immediate needs

### [Asheville Tool Library](#)

Low or no cost access to tools and resources

### [Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture Volunteer Corp](#)

Volunteer opportunities for farm recovery efforts

### [Center for Environmental Farming Systems](#)

Links for farms and farmers in WNC.

### [CFSA Running Resources for Helene Response & Relief](#)

Information for affected farms and for people interested in donating or volunteering. CFSA is compiling a list of farmer needs (fencing down, lost food storage, etc) please email to [info@carolinafarmstewards.org](mailto:info@carolinafarmstewards.org)

### [Farm Aid Hotline](#) 1-800-FARM-AID

### [FNS Replacement Benefits](#)

Residents of affected counties to receive benefits back on their card

### [Helene Resource & Rebuild](#)

Comprehensive list of resources and links specific to affected counties

### [NCDA&CS Agricultural Emergency Hotline](#)

1-866-645-9403

### [NC State Extension Chainsaw Safety Guidelines](#)

Safety information and links to other resources

### [NC State Extension Crop Insurance Guidelines](#)

### [NC State Extension Helene Update with Resource Links](#)

Variety of resource link for affected farmers

### [NC State Extension Post Flood Food Safety](#) [NC State Extension Flooded Produce Info](#)

### [NC State Extension Recovering From A Flood: Garden Recovery](#)

Defines what can be kept and what should be discarded after a flood.

### [NCDA&CS Livestock Donation Supply Sites](#)

Opportunities to donate or receive livestock feed

### [NCDA&CS Supply Drop Off Locations](#)

Donation drop off opportunities at regional farmers markets

### [RAFI Helene Disaster Support](#)

Information for farmers reporting damage to USDA

### [RAFI Farmer Crisis Hotline](#) 1-866-586-6746

[Resources for Food and Animal Food Producers affected By Flooding](#)

Guidelines for use of crops after a flooding event

[Trees Are Good Arborist Search](#)

Find a certified arborist in your area

[US Small Business Administration Disaster Loans Fact Sheet](#)

Information specific to Helene recovery

[US Small Business Administration Recovery Center Appointment Scheduling](#)

Centers in Charlotte, Asheville & Boone

[USDA Disaster Assistance Programs Web Links](#)

Links to a variety of assistance programs

[USDA Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#)

Guided tool for identifying assistance opportunities

[USDA Disaster Assistance Programs At A Glance](#)

Compiled graphic listing all USDA disaster assistance

[USDA Post Disaster Food Safety](#)

Summary of disaster preparedness links including post event food safety guidelines

[WNC energyCAP \(Energy Cost-share Assistance Program\)](#)

Program to specifically assist farmers and small business owners with energy efficiency projects

[Vecinos, Inc Farmworker Relief Fund](#)

Donations to support medical care for farmworkers in Western North Carolina

[WNC Communities Donation Link](#)

Support for farms and communities in WNC