**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

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 Farmwarket Relief Fund
Donations to supports medical care for farmworkers in Western North Carolina

WNC Communities Donation Link
Support for farms and communities in WNC