

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

**HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MEETING DATE: November 4, 2019

SUBJECT: Disaster Relief Program Update

PRESENTER: Senator Chuck Edwards
Commissioner McCall

ATTACHMENTS: Yes

1. NC Department of Agriculture 10.11.19 News Release

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Senator Check Edwards will update the Board on the NC Department of Agriculture's Disaster Relief Program, which is providing assistance to farmers who suffered losses to commodities, livestock, poultry and aquaculture because of excessive rain and flooding that occurred between May 15, 2018, and Dec. 31, 2018. The available funding is a direct result of Senate Bill 268 filed by Senator Edwards in March 2019. The application period for the program begins on November 6, 2019 and closes on November 20, 2019. Additional information on the application process can be found on the attached News Release from the NC Department of Agriculture.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

No specific Board action is requested. This item is for information only.

Suggested Motion:

No motion suggested.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, OCT. 11, 2019

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Disaster relief program for Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Rutherford and Transylvania counties to open for affected producers

RALEIGH – Starting Nov. 6, farmers in Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Rutherford and Transylvania counties will be able to sign up for the NCDA&CS Agricultural Disaster Program. The sign-up period will begin Nov. 6 and will end on Nov. 20.

The program will directly assist farmers who suffered losses to commodities, livestock, poultry and aquaculture because of excessive rain and flooding that occurred between May 15, 2018, and Dec. 31, 2018. The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will administer the program.

"Farmers need to take action now to get their Farm Service Agency forms in order so they will have the necessary documents to apply for assistance," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "I cannot stress enough that producers need to file their applications during the sign-up period. There will be no extensions to this deadline."

Producers in these five counties who experienced a verifiable crop loss as a result of excessive rain and flooding that occurred during the time period, will need to go to their local United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency office to file the necessary paperwork for FSA Form 578. This is a required document in the application process for producers who experienced loss with apples, corn for grain, grass, tomatoes or other field crops.

Producers without a 2018 FSA Form 578 on file can request a manual form at their local USDA Service Center/FSA Office. Please start this process as soon as possible. It could take up to 30 days to complete.

For application instructions and access to the application portal, go to www.ncagr.gov/agriculturaldisasterprogram.

Local FSA and Cooperative Extension offices will be available to assist farmers with applications. For more information, visit www.ncagr.gov/agriculturaldisasterprogram or call 1-866-645-9403.

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