

Hurricane Florence Disaster Response FAQs

Non-Field Farm road repair

- Q.** What is a non-field farm road?
- A.** Non-field farm roads are those roads that are used to access farm fields. They are not in or adjacent to fields. Any road that is adjacent to a farm field is considered to be part of the field. For example, an access road through the woods that is routinely used to access a farm field would be considered a non-field farm road and would be eligible for cost share through this program. FSA ECP funds may be available to repair farm roads adjacent to fields.
- Q.** Can tree removal costs be covered as part of a non-field farm road repair contract?
- A.** Yes. If it is necessary to remove trees to access and/or repair the road, the expense is an acceptable component of a non-field farm road repair contract. Documentation and receipts for the work completed must be included with contract.
- Q.** If our county FSA is not participating in ECP can we cost share on any farm road; field or non-field?
- A.** If FSA is not participating in ECP then all farm road repairs in your county will be considered non-field farm road repairs and are eligible for cost share.
- Q.** Can we offer cost share on a portion of a field farm road repair that FSA will not fund?
- A.** Yes, any portion of a field farm road repair that FSA will not cover will be considered a non-field farm road repair and is eligible for cost share.
- Q.** If we have not filled out the formsite form for Non-field Farm Road Repair Needs are we still eligible to receive funding?
- A.** Yes. Fill out formsite with your current needs information to receive funding.
- Q.** If repairs to roads damaged by Matthew have been damaged in Florence can we use the same design to repair the new damage or does it have to be redesigned?
- A.** If the original design meets the standard, that design may be used again to repair the new damage unless the damage is different.
- Q.** What is the minimum design storm frequency if a culvert or bridge is needed as part of a non-field farm road repair?
- A.** For an Emergency Access Restoration contract the culvert or bridge must be designed to convey a 2 yr - 24 hr storm event. For a standard Non-Field Farm Road Repair the culvert or bridge must be designed to convey a 2 yr - 24 hr storm or a 10 yr - 24 hr storm event depending on the use of the road. The uses are specified in the NRCS Practice Standard for Access Roads (560).

- Q.** If a road is used to access both farm fields and a residence is it still eligible for cost share?
- A.** Yes, so long as the road is the only access to the farm fields. Cost share funds can only be used to pay for repairs to the portion of the road that is necessary to access the field.
- Q.** If a pond dam that served as the access road to farm fields was damaged and the cooperator plans to drain the pond and convert the dam to a road would this repair be considered a non-field farm road repair?
- A.** Yes, this may be designed and repaired as a non-field farm road. The design should eliminate the potential for water backing up behind the road with an adequately sized culvert or bridge.

Pasture Renovation

- Q.** Can this practice be used to repair gullies and washes in pastures?
- A.** No. This practice is intended for a complete pasture renovation. You may be able to use BMP repair/renovation funds to repair these concerns. This practice is not intended for repairs or renovations to address erosion in pasture/hayfield.
- Q.** Can we use the funds to renovate pastures that needed renovation before Florence?
- A.** No. These funds are intended to be used on pastures that were damaged during Florence. Not to be used to supplement regular pasture renovations.

Disaster Winter Forage Crop Incentive

- Q.** If a producer has a lagoon that is high and needs to apply the waste on additional land, outside of the normal acreage in the WUP, can the additional land be used in this program?
- A.** Yes. If the additional land was planted or needs to be planted to allow for additional waste application those acres planted are eligible for cost share. The producer will need an amendment to the existing WUP to apply on the additional fields.
- Q.** If the cooperator started planting last week are they eligible?
- A.** Yes. This program will pay retroactively for practices already implemented, starting from the date of Hurricane Florence, September 14, 2018. Receipts and proper documentation are required to receive cost share.

- Q.** Is the incentive available for planting winter forage on fields that are already in the waste utilization plan so that animal waste can be applied to that field?
- A.** These funds are not intended to be used for normal sprayfield activities. The intent is to increase the land application area available to the producer to manage their lagoons between now and next spring. Therefore, if your normal waste utilization plan includes small grain overseed for winter application, the farmer would not be eligible for the winter forage crop incentive. However, if your existing plan does not include small grain overseed for winter application and the farmer chooses to plant a small grain overseed to be used to increase their capacity for land application, those acres are eligible for the incentive. Note: The exception to the above is where a farmer has already planted a small grain overseed in their sprayfield as part of their normal waste utilization plan and the crop was killed due to flooding. In that case, the incentive could be used to replant the small grain overseed a second time.

Disaster Lagoon Management Incentive

- Q.** Can a producer receive cost share for using their own Aerway system to apply waste to existing sprayfields?
- A.** No, at this time. A CONTRACTOR must do the application using alternative methods to qualify for cost share. A producer is eligible for cost share if they use their own equipment (Aerway, travelling gun etc.) to apply waste to alternative sites that are not part of their normal WUP. The producer will need an amendment to the existing WUP to apply on the alternative sites.
- Q.** Can you combine costs for pump & haul and alternative application methods?
- A.** No. Practices cannot be combined in this program. Cost share can only be paid for one practice. Cost share rates are higher for pump & haul so this is the practice that should be paid on.
- Q.** If a producer still has capacity to apply waste based on the PAN of the fields in their WUP does this make them ineligible for this practice?
- A.** No. You may still apply to additional fields regardless of the PAN for existing fields. The producer will need an amendment to the existing WUP to apply on the alternative sites.
- Q.** Can you apply sludge?
- A.** No. The lagoon management incentive is intended to assist with removal of excess lagoon liquid resulting from Hurricane Florence. These funds are not to be used for pumping sludge as required for normal lagoon maintenance.
- Q.** If a producer got an amendment to their WUP before Hurricane Florence to address high lagoon levels resulting from excessive rainfall amounts is the amendment still applicable for these emergency practices.
- A.** Yes. So long as the amendment to the WUP is still valid and applicable to the current situation.

- Q.** If a producer was proactively trying to manage lagoon levels prior to Florence can those costs be cost shared retroactively?
- A.** No. The costs associated with lagoon management that occurred before Hurricane Florence are not eligible for this program.
- Q.** Can lagoon management that occurred before the allocation but after Florence be cost shared?
- A.** Yes. This program will pay retroactively for practices already implemented, starting from the date of Hurricane Florence, September 14, 2018. Receipts and proper documentation are required to receive cost share.
- Q.** Is there a minimum or maximum depth for pumping down lagoons?
- A.** No. Cooperators may go to the stop pump mark so they are in a better position to weather the winter. Districts can always set additional local limits whether it is a number of inches pumped or a cap on cost share amount per applicant or operation.

General

- Q.** Where can we request more funding for practices?
- A.** Use the formsite forms to request more funding. You must use the forms to add Roads and Pond projects.