

**NCDA&CS Hurricane Helene
Agricultural Disaster Recovery Program
USDA Block Grant
Infrastructure Loss
Track 2: Alternative Repair
Roads, Bridges, Culverts**

Definition/Purpose

Repair to existing on-farm roads, bridges, and culverts in eligible counties damaged by Hurricane Helene that is deemed safe and stable but does not meet USDA – NRCS standards. The roads, bridges, and culverts must provide direct access to farm production and be located on the farm.

Policies

1. To be eligible for repair assistance, the roads, bridges, or culverts must have suffered significant damage, such as complete washout or blockage and be impassable or nearly impassable by vehicles and necessary production equipment.
2. Ineligible roads, bridges, and culverts include:
 - a. Those located on forest land that do not access farm production locations
 - b. Those that only lead to residential and farmstead areas of the farm that do not include production locations.
 - c. It is possible that some portions of a road will be eligible and other portions ineligible.
3. Farm and Tract numbers will be required to receive payment. If the farm does not have Farm and Tract numbers, the producer will need to obtain one from USDA Farm Service Agency.
4. Repair estimates will be created using North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program average cost list. These estimates will be compared to actual construction costs and the lower of the two will be used for payment.
5. All repairs must be deemed safe and stable based upon the following criteria:
 - a. Roads:
 - i. Passable and maintains structural integrity under current traffic load
 - ii. No active rutting or surface failure inconsistent with current use
 - iii. No uncontrolled water flowing along or down the road surface causing active erosion or channeling
 - iv. Drainage structures present and passing flow without complete blockage, overtopping, or active road damage
 - v. Cut and fill slopes not actively failing with no fresh slumping, cracking, toe bulging, or piping observed

- vi. Road width adequate for current agricultural use even if below CPS minimums
 - vii. Shoulders and disturbed areas not actively eroding in a manner causing offsite sediment discharge.
- b. Stream Crossings and Culverts:
- i. Under normal flow conditions, the crossing is not exhibiting active structural or hydraulic failure
 - ii. Crossing passable under normal agricultural use without active overtopping or structural compromise
 - iii. Culvert or ford passing flow without active scour at inlet or outlet
 - iv. No active undermining, piping, or structural failure of the crossing or its fill
 - v. Approach fills stable with no active erosion contributing sediment to the stream
 - vi. Outlet protected and not actively scouring
 - vii. Crossing not creating an upstream impoundment or downstream erosion condition posing offsite risk
6. All road and culvert evaluations will be completed by a professional engineer or those with appropriate NRCS or Division Job Approval Authority
7. All bridge crossings will be evaluated with assistance from and designed by a NC licensed professional engineer.

Track 2: Alternative Repair Roads, Bridges, Culverts		
JAA Required	All Access Roads	ENG - 560 - Access Road
	Access Roads with Crossings (Culverts, Fords, or Bridges)	ENG - 560 - Access Road ENG - 578 - Stream Crossing
Associated NRCS Conservation Practice Standards		342 Critical Area Planting 391 Riparian Forest Buffer 410 Grade Stabilization Structure 560 Access Road 561 Heavy Use Area 578 Stream Crossing 580 Streambank and Shoreline Protection 587 Structures for Water Control