

Hi everyone, I hope you are all safe. This week's historic floods will deeply impact farmers in floodplains and maybe some of you too? Please take care and we are thinking of you!

HEALTH DEPARTMENT TIPS on food safety and water

<https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/be-prepared-be-safe/floods>

Info is available in many languages.

Food Safety

Center for Disease Control info on “Keep Food Safe After a Disaster or Emergency

“: <https://www.cdc.gov/.../keep-food-safe-after-emergency.html>

Clean Up Info

<https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/be-prepared-be-safe/floods/cleanup>

<https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/be-prepared-be-safe/severe-weather-and-natural-disasters/floods>

How to Purify Water

<https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/be-prepared-be-safe/severe-weather-and-natural-disasters/water-purification>

USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY on recovery for farmers and ranchers

USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) has several emergency relief programs that can help with post-flood recovery. The steps for farms to qualify for FSA coverage are to:

1. **Contact your local USDA FSA** office at the first sign of damage. Damage reports are needed to request funding for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), so please report early, even if you only have general information to share at this point. If your farm is not already registered with USDA, they can help start that process.

The main USDA Farm Service Agency is in Spokane: (509) 323-3000 or (855) 843-1172.

You can enter Washington, then County, in the FSA locator to find an office close to you: <https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>

If you are not already registered with your local FSA office, you will need to do that to get financial help.

2. **Document damage or losses** with photos that are date stamped (cameras on phones do this automatically).

Damage or losses that may be covered by various programs include the following (this list is not exhaustive – please contact FSA for more information):

EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAMS at the USDA Farm Service Agency

Below are four programs, each with their own acronyms. There may be others.

*The key is not to **begin restoration efforts** until after a contract is signed and approved by the Farm Service Agency and you are given the green light. Obviously, some things cannot wait. But for bigger restoration work, this might help pay for recovery.*

1. Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/emergency-conservation-program-ecp>

This emergency program may pay for up to 75% of the cost of *approved* conservation practices. (Some farms with limited resources may be eligible for up to 90% cost-share.)

You may get some money *after a contract is signed* and you are approved. Things that may be “covered” – meaning get some money for -- include:

§ Removing debris from farmland

§ Grading, shaping, or leveling land

§ Restoring permanent fences

§ Restoring conservation structures

2. Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/emergency-assistance-livestock-honeybees-farm-raised-fish-elap>

This program helps pay for the below losses. Payment Rates: Payments vary by the type of loss. Specific rates are detailed in program guidelines.

§ Feed/forage losses including purchased or harvested feed stored on the farm, additional feed purchased, and additional cost of feed delivery

§ Grazing losses due to flooding

§ Honeybee hive, colony, and feed losses due to flood

3. [Livestock Indemnity Program \(LIP\)](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/livestock-indemnity-program-lip)

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/livestock-indemnity-program-lip>

This program helps pay for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality. The payment rates are based on the fair market value of the livestock. The 2025 rates are available [here](#).

4. [Emergency Farm Loans](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/emergency-farm-loans)

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/emergency-farm-loans>

Emergency Farm Loans offer financial support to farmers and ranchers impacted by natural disasters such as drought, flooding, storms, wildfires, earthquakes, and other declared disasters. These loans can be used to restore or replace essential property, cover production costs, pay essential family living expenses, and refinance certain debts. The aim is to help producers recover swiftly and maintain the viability of their operations during and after disaster recovery.

To be eligible, farmers and ranchers must operate in a **disaster-designated county** and have experienced substantial damage. Applicants must demonstrate an inability to obtain sufficient credit from other sources to cover their disaster-related needs. Talk with FSA to find out how to do this.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Washington State Dept of Agriculture also has info on flood preparation and recovery. It is on their website:

<https://agr.wa.gov/services/emergency-management/disasters/floods>

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