

Hurricane and Tropical Storm Irene Assistance Available in Vermont to Help Farmers

FIRST: Speak with your Primary Lender, your Insurance Agent, your Crop Insurance Agent and FEMA 1-800-621-FEMA

Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation

Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation has announced an emergency loan program in response to the financial crisis being experienced by farmers in the wake of Hurricane and Tropical Storm Irene. Proceeds are for direct flood related damages and losses.

Loan Rates and Terms

- Interest rate in this program will be 1% for the first two years with no payments required during the first year. At the beginning of the third year, the rate will adjust to the VACC Prime variable index. Loans will be amortized based on how the loan funds will be used.
- Maximum loan size will be \$100,000.
- Adequate collateral must be available to secure these loans. FSA guarantees may be required with an applicable fee.

Application Process

- To download an application go to www.veda.org and click on appropriate link on home page.
 - Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation, 58 E State St., Suite 5, Montpelier, VT 05602 - 802-828-5627 or Toll Free – 866-828-3276.
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Farm Service Agency

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides **Emergency Loans** to help Vermont farmers recover from production and physical losses due to the flooding associated with Irene and wet conditions this spring.

Loan Uses - Emergency loan funds may be used to: restore or replace essential property; pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; pay essential family living expenses; reorganize the farming operation; and refinance certain debts.

Loan Limit - Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

Interest Rate - The current annual interest rate for emergency loans is 3.75 percent.

Loan Terms - Loans for crop, livestock, and non-real estate losses are normally repaid within one to seven years, depending on the loan purpose, repayment ability and collateral available as loan security. Loans for physical losses to real estate are normally repaid within 30 years.

The FSA also has several **Disaster Programs** that may be of assistance to Vermont farmers including the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP); the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP); the Tree Assistance Program (TAP); the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP); the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP); and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program.

ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers to rehabilitate farmland (including fencing) damaged by natural disasters. EFRP provides funding to restore forestland damaged by natural disaster. TAP provides funding to replace fruit trees or bushes and Christmas trees damaged by natural disaster. LIP provides financial assistance for livestock deaths that result from natural disaster. ELAP provides financial assistance for livestock, honey bees and farm raised fish losses due to natural disaster. NAP provides financial assistance for crop losses due to natural disaster. SURE provides financial assistance for crop losses from quality or quantity deficiencies due to natural disasters.

Call: 802-658-2803 or see attached sheet for additional contact information.

Vermont Farm Fund

The VFF Emergency Loan will offer \$5,000 loans for 0% interest, payable over two years time to Vermont farms who are in danger of shutting down their business because of the flooding. The application and process is simple and fast. The turn-around from receipt of application to approval of qualified applicants will be 14 business days or less and reviewed by a panel of people from varied agricultural backgrounds

Call: Elena Gustavson at 472-5840 or elena@hardwickagriculture.org

Farm First

Short-term, free, confidential counseling, information and resources for Vermont Dairy Farmers and their family members.

Call 1-877-493-6216 or www.investeap.org – Password: dairy

Vermont Community Foundation and Agency of Ag

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture has partnered with the Vermont Community Foundation to create the Vermont Farm Disaster Relief Fund which will assist Vermont farms that sustained damage from tropical Storm Irene. The relief fund will pool contributions from donors and will make grants directly to farmers affected by the storm.

Contact: Stuart Comstock-Gay – Vermont Community Foundation – 802-388-3355 ext. 285 (Carolyn Fox) scomstock-gay@vermontcf.org
OR Koi Boynton – Vermont Agency of Agriculture – 802-249-6647 koiboynton@state.vt.us

Vermont Farm Service Agency County Offices

Contact these offices to reach Farm Loan Program Staff

ADDISON COUNTY

68 Catamount Park, Suite A
Middlebury, VT 05753-1292
Phone 802-388-6748 or 1-888-408-3783
Fax 802-388-3709

RUTLAND & BENNINGTON COUNTIES

170 South Main Street, Suite 4
Rutland, VT 05701-4559
Phone 802-775-8969/8034 or 1-800-300-6927
Fax 802-773-4177

LAMOILLE COUNTY

109 Professional Drive, Suite 2
Morrisville, VT 05661
Phone 802-888-4935
Fax 802-888-8901

CHITTENDEN & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

1193 South Brownell Road, Suite 35
Williston, VT 05495
Phone 802-865-7895 or 1-800-910-2035
Fax 802-865-7947

WINDSOR & ORANGE COUNTIES

28 Farmvu Drive
White River Jct., VT 05001-6001
Phone 802-295-7942 or 1-800-789-6713
Fax 802-296-3654

FRANKLIN & GRAND ISLE COUNTIES

27 Fisher Pond Road, Suite 2
St. Albans, VT 05478-6274
Phone 802-527-1296 or 1-800-717-8637
Fax 802-524-4575

CALEDONIA & ESSEX COUNTIES

481 Summer St, Suite 201
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
Phone 802-748-2641 or 1-800-862-1121
Fax 802-748-1621

WINDHAM COUNTY

28 Vernon Street, Suite 330
Brattleboro, VT 05301
Phone 802-254-9766
Fax 802-254-3307

ORLEANS COUNTY

59 Waterfront Plaza, Suite 11
Newport, VT 05855-4877
Phone 802-334-6090 or 1-866-241-2190
Fax 802-334-1365

Yankee Farm Credit

[St. Albans](#) – 130 Upper Welden Street, Suite 1, PO Box 1489, St. Albans, VT 05478 – 802-524-2938 or 800-545-1097 – Fax – 802-524-7544

[Middlebury](#) – 1436 Exchange St., PO Box 350, Middlebury, VT 05753 – 802-388-2692 or 800-545-1169 – FAX – 802-388-4917

[Newport](#) – 41 Highland Avenue, PO Box 537, Newport, VT 05855 – 802-334-8050 or 800-370-2738 – FAX – 802-334-8058

[White River Jct.](#) – 52 Farmvu Dr., PO Box 1009, White River Jct., VT 05001 – 802-295-3670 or 800-370-3276 – FAX – 802-295-9086

For Assistance Filling Out Loan Applications

Bob Parsons, Extension Ag Economist – Professor, UVM Extension/Department of CDAE, 204A Morrill Hall Burlington, VT 05405-0106
Phone: 802-656-2109 - Fax: 802-656-1423 - Email: bob.parsons@uvm.edu

Dennis Kauppila, Farm Business Management Specialist UVM Extension, 397 Railroad Street, Suite 3, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819-1740
802-751-8307 x 359 - Fax 802-751-8800 email: dennis.kauppila@uvm.edu

Mark Cannella, UVM Extension, Farm Business Management Specialist - (802)223-2389 Ext. 207 Fax: (802)223-6500
mark.cannella@uvm.edu - 617 Comstock Road Suite 5 Berlin, VT 05602
