

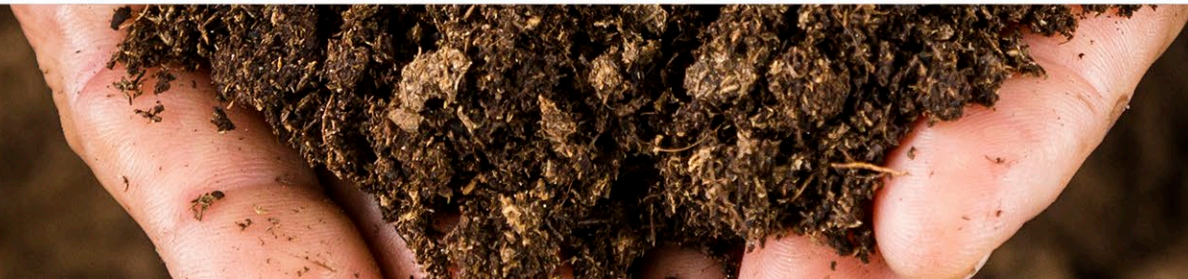


United States Department of Agriculture

Florida NRCS

Disaster Assistance Strategy Updates

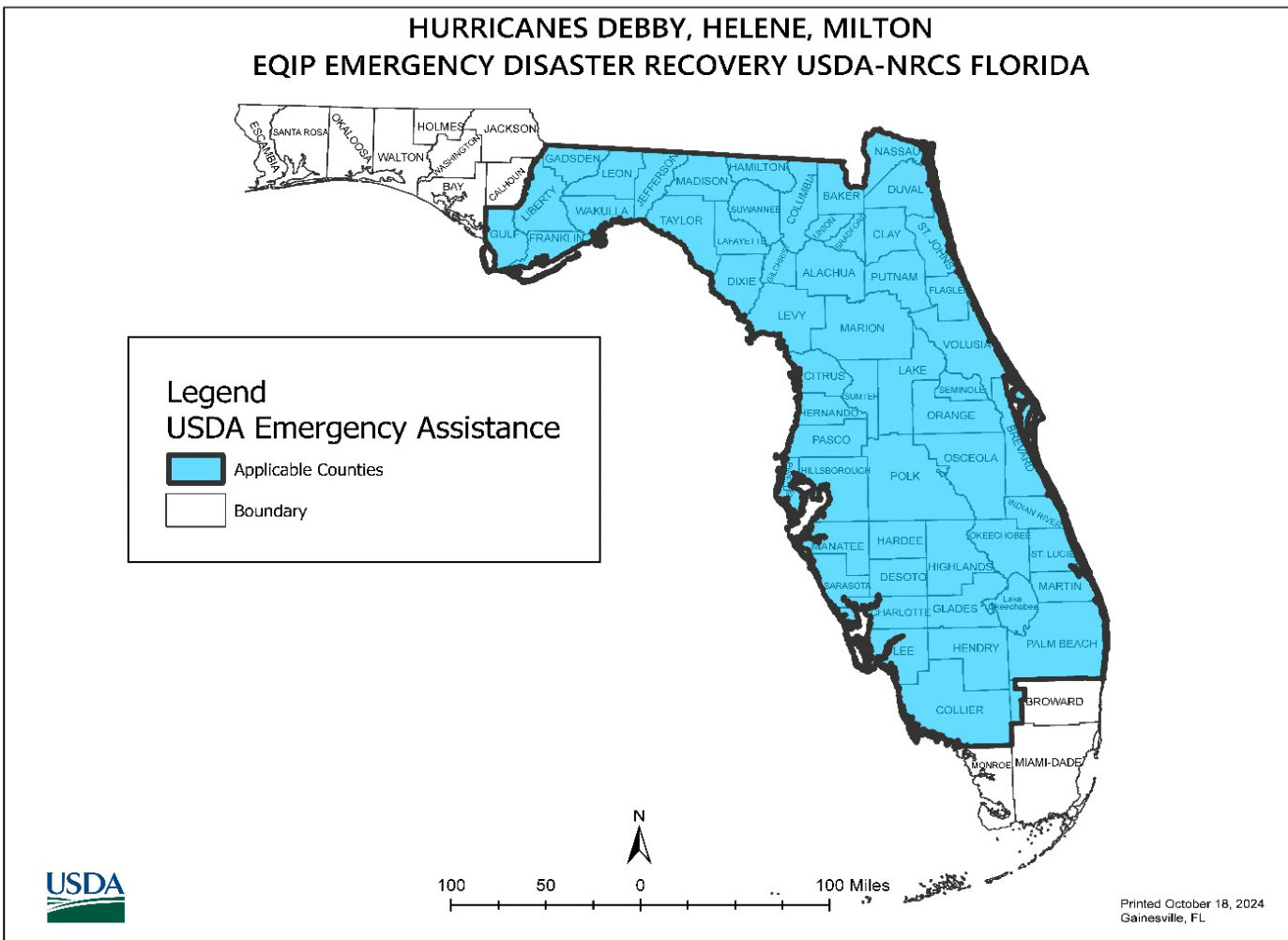
October 30, 2024



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

Applicable Counties



High Tunnel System (CPS 325)

Definition: An enclosed polyethylene, polycarbonate, plastic, or fabric covered structure used to cover and protect crops from the sun, wind, excessive rainfall, or cold to extend the growing season in an environmentally safe manner.

Purpose: Improve plant health and vigor.

Landuse: Cropland

Lifespan: 5 years



Mulching (484)

Definition: Applying plant residues or other suitable materials to the land surface.

Purpose:

- Improve the efficiency of moisture management
- Reduce irrigation energy used in farming/ranching practices and field operations
- Improve the efficient use of irrigation water
- Prevent excessive bank erosion from water conveyance channels
- Reduce concentrated flow erosion
- Reduce sheet, rill, and wind erosion
- Improve plant productivity and health
- Maintain or increase organic matter content
- Reduce emissions of particulate matter



Landuse: Cropland

Lifespan: 1 year



Nutrient Management (590)

Definition: Manage rate, source, placement, and timing of plant nutrients and soil amendments while reducing environmental impacts.

Purpose:

- Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG)

Landuse: Cropland

Lifespan: 1 year



Pest Management Conservation System (595)

Definition: A system that combines integrated pest management (IPM) decision-making process with natural resource conservation to address pest and environmental impacts

Purpose:

- Reduce plant pest pressure
- Reduce injury to beneficial organisms
- Reduce transport of pesticides to surface and ground water
- Reduce emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM precursors (chemical droplet drift)
- Reduce emissions of ozone precursors (pesticide volatilizations)

Landuse: Cropland

Lifespan: 1 year



Woody Residue Treatment (CPS 384)

Definition: The treatment of residual woody material that is created due to management activities or natural disturbances.

Purpose:

- Reduce hazardous fuels
- Reduce the risk of harmful insects and disease
- Protect/maintain air quality by reducing the risk of wildfire
- To improve access for management purposes
- Improve access to forage for livestock and wildlife
- Develop renewable energy systems
- Enhance aesthetics
- Reduce the risk of harm to humans and livestock
- Improve the soil organic matter
- Improve the site for natural or artificial regeneration

Landuse: Pasture/Rangeland

Lifespan: 10 years



			
Light (<25% Damage)	Moderate (25% - 33% Damage)	Severe (33% - 50% Damage)	Catastrophic (>50% Damage)
Few trees are bent < 45°. Only branches broken from trees; minor damage to tree stems.	Some trees are noticeably uprooted with severe lean > 45°. Branches broken from trees with visible damage to tree stems in the overall stand.	Many trees are bent over > 45°. Many stems broke, tops broken out across the stand, limbs stripped.	Majority of trees are bent over > 45°. Stems broken across the stand, tops broken out across the stand, limbs stripped, and bent trees.

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Definition: Establishing woody plants by planting seedlings or cuttings, by direct seeding, and/or through natural regeneration.

Purpose:

- Maintain or improve desirable plant diversity, productivity, and health by establishing woody plants
- Create or improve habitat for desired wildlife species compatible with ecological characteristics of the site
- Control erosion
- Improve water quality. Reduce excess nutrients and other pollutants in runoff and groundwater
- Sequester and store carbon
- Restore or maintain native plant communities
- Develop renewable energy systems
- Conserve energy
- Provide for beneficial organisms and pollinators

Landuse: Forest

Lifespan: 15 Years



Bivalve Aquaculture Gear & Biofouling Control (CPS 400)

Definition: Actions that reduce, clean, or remove biofouling organisms and other waste from bivalve production areas while minimizing environmental risk and risk to species of concern

Purpose:

- Reduce adverse impacts of shellfish aquaculture operations and gear on water, plant, animal, and human resources
- Improve dependable water quantity and quality to support shellfish production
- Improve adequate food quantity and quality to support shellfish production

Applies to: Near-shore, intertidal, and subtidal areas where bivalve aquaculture occurs

Landuse: Water

Lifespan: 1 year



Animal Mortality

Practices: 368 – Emergency Animal Mortality Management and facilitating/supporting

Early Start Waiver Criteria:

- GPS point of planned disposal site
- Evaluation of 100-year floodplain setback

Early Start Waiver Approval: Delegated to ASTC-FO and District Conservationist

Application/Obligation Process: Act Now

Funding Source: EQIP Farm Bill

Allocation: \$500,000

Ranking Tool: FY25 Florida EQIP Hurricane Disaster Assistance (In development)

Funding Category: Animal Mortality

Irrigated Lands – Center Pivots

Practices: 442 – Irrigation System and facilitating/supporting

- Age greater than 15 years, must replace center pivot
- Less than 15 years, can repair

Early Start Waiver Criteria: Extent of area damaged by hurricane

Early Start Waiver Approval: Delegated to ASTC-FO and District Conservationist

Application Process: Act Now

Funding Source: EQIP Farm Bill

Estimated Allocation: 8.5M

Ranking Tool: FY25 Florida EQIP Hurricane Disaster Assistance (In development)

Funding Category: Irrigated Lands – Center Pivots



United States Department of Agriculture



Hurricane Recovery Webinar

10-30-2024

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

EQIP Disaster Assistance

Signup Period: October 18 – December 20, 2024

Act Now Process

- NRCS Florida will evaluate disaster assistance applications using the ACT NOW process.
- ACT NOW allows NRCS to pre-approve ranked application when the ranking score meets or exceeds an established threshold score.
- The minimum threshold ranking score for EQIP disaster assistance funding is 50 points.
- Applications will be batched and processed in the order received.

EQIP Disaster Assistance

Florida counties targeted for disaster assistance include:

Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Brevard, Brevard, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Columbia, Desoto, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Leon, Levy, Liberty, , Madison, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Nassau, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Volusia, and Wakulla.

EQIP Disaster Assistance

Conservation Practice	Applicable Land Use	Practice Payment Cap	Estimated Allocation
484 - Mulching	Cropland	\$50,000	\$1M
325 - High Tunnel System	Cropland	\$50,000	\$1M
442 - Irrigation System (center pivots) and applicable facilitating practices to CPS 442	Any applicable irrigated land	none	\$8.5M
368 - Emergency Animal Mortality Management and applicable facilitating practices to CPS 368	Any applicable land use (usually Farmstead)	none	\$500,000
400 - Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control	Water	\$60,000	\$1M

EQIP Disaster Assistance

Conservation Practice	Applicable Land Use	Practice Payment Cap	Estimated Allocation
384 - Woody Residue Treatment 612 - Tree/Shrub Establishment Applicable facilitating practices to CPS 384 or CPS 612	Forest	Not applicable	\$10M
384 - Woody Residue Treatment	Pasture & Rangeland	Not applicable	\$2M
590 - Nutrient Management with 595 - Pest Management as facilitating practice to CPS 590	Cropland	Not applicable	\$2M

EQIP Disaster Assistance

Early Start Waivers

Principal Purpose: To assess the applicability for and grant approval of an early start waiver to address resource concerns related to the recovery from Hurricane Debby, Helene, and/or Milton.

Statements of Understanding: An approved waiver only applies to the starting date for conservation practice(s) identified in the table below and does not constitute approval of an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract.

- An early start waiver is not a guarantee of conservation program payment.
- An approved waiver will expire 12 months from the NRCS District Conservationist signature date.
- Waiver approval is contingent upon work not having been started on the conservation practice(s) before the date this waiver was approved.
- Conservation practice(s) must be completed in a manner that meets the NRCS standards and specifications to be eligible for program payments.

EQIP Disaster Assistance

Practice Code	Practice Name and Units
325	High Tunnel System (sf)
590	Nutrient Management (ac)
400	Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control (ea.)
442	Sprinkler System (ac)
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment (ac)
368	Emergency Animal Mortality Management (amu)
595	Pest Management Conservation System (ac)
384	Woody Residue Treatment (ac)
484	Mulching (ac)

EQIP Disaster Assistance

Conditions for Early Start Waiver Approval

325	High Tunnel System (ac)	An early start waiver for CPS 325 is conditional on the applicant using a high tunnel system kit and the planner identifying the extent of the area damaged by the hurricane.
368	Emergency Animal Mortality Management (amu)	An early start waiver for CPS 368 is conditional on the planner collecting a GPS point of the planned disposal site and an evaluation of 100-year floodplain setback.
384	Woody Residue Treatment (ac)	An early start waiver for CPS 384 is conditional on the planner identifying the extent of the area damaged by hurricanes. Refer to inventory and evaluation guidance for assessing hurricane damage on forestlands.
442	Sprinkler System (ac)	An early start waiver for CPS 442 is conditional on the planner identifying the extent of the area damaged by the hurricane.
484	Mulching (ac)	An early start waiver for CPS 484 is conditional on the planner identifying the extent of the area damaged by the hurricane and photo documenting damaged crops.
595	Pest Management Conservation System (ac)	An early start waiver for CPS 595 is conditional on the presence of existing trees on site and the planner identifying the extent of the area damaged by the hurricane.

Failed Conservation Treatments

Active Contracts

- A producer with an active contract and a failed conservation treatment from the hurricane may be will be treated on a case-by-case basis to modify the contract to reapply the failed practice

Expired Contracts

- A producer with an expired contracts with a failed conservation treatment from the hurricane can submit a new FY25 disaster assistance application and compete for a new contract

