

Disaster Survey Q&A

What should be reported and why

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Bill Information

A historical opportunity for CT farmers

- On December 20, 2024, a Continuing Resolution was signed into law, securing \$220 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Established a block grants to the six New England States, Alaska, and Hawaii
- Compensate producers for losses and expenses resulting from weather events in 2023 and 2024



Survey for Data Collection

Why information is being collected, again.

- Each state must estimate its losses from weather events in 2023 AND 2024
- The amount reported to CT DoAg will aid in determining the funding request we will submit to USDA
- The number submitted will then be put in a formula to determine the award amount to each state from the \$220 million allocation
- All producers who have experienced a loss due to weather events in 2023 and/or 2024 should complete the survey



What Should be Reported?

Crop loss

- Damage to crops

Production loss

- Generational planting
- Soil contamination

Infrastructure damage and/or loss

- Buildings
- Hoop houses
- Fences
- Roads
- Culvert/swales
- Equipment

Increased production costs

- Invasive management
- Pest pressure management
- Disease pressure management
- Sub item if relevant

Add'l labor and equipment use associated with climate events

- Harvesting/disposal of unsaleable crops
- Infrastructure repair/reconstruction
- Pest/disease management



What Should be Reported, cont.

Revenue Loss

- Result of no crops (value of crop vs. retail/wholesale value of crop)

Subsequent Year(s) Revenue Loss & Long-Term Stresses

'Naturally' Absorbed Costs



THINK BROADLY & COMPREHENSIVELY!

**The survey must be completed by
Sunday, January 19 at 11:59 p.m.**

[Take the Survey](#)

What Happens After January 22nd

- January 22 is the date all New England States have agreed to submit their numbers to the USDA
- USDA will take the information provided and put it in a formula to determine the state allocation
- While that is ongoing, the agency with industry partners and in consultation with other New England State Depts of Ag, will begin to develop an application process and determine what and to what extent funding will be provided to CT producers
- Once the agency determines the program parameters, USDA must review and approve the program, prior to the agency releasing it to CT farmers



Frequently Asked Questions



FAQ's

Q1. If I submit to the survey, am I automatically considered for funding?

A1. No, you must submit through the application process once it's released.

Q2. When can I expect the application for the program to be opened?

A2. Prior to opening the program, the agency must first:

1. Develop guidance which will determine what expenses and at what percentage the program will pay out
2. Have the guidance approved by the USDA prior to releasing
3. Determine how pay-outs to farmers will take place
4. Finalize the overall timeline for the program

Q3. What documentation will be necessary for submission once the program is released?

A3. That information will be determined once program parameters are defined.

Q4. Will this be another loan?

A4. No, this will be a grant to CT farmers.

FAQ's

Q5. What if I have farmland in a bordering state? Do I qualify in both states?

A5. If you have farmland in a boarder state, it's likely that you'll be eligible in the second state. You would be required to apply to the border state's program in addition to CT's program. Please be aware, New York is not a state eligible for this funding opportunity.

Q6. If I received crop insurance payments or other indemnity payments, am I still eligible for this program?

A6. Yes, but payments already received will be considered when determining the allowable payout through this program.

Q7. I already filled out the survey and realize there are more expenses I could submit for. Can I resubmit?

A7. Yes, please resubmit your survey. The survey has been updated to include a field identifying if this is an update what was previously submitted. If you have any concerns, please contact Rebecca Eddy to make her aware so we're not duplicating numbers.

FAQ's

Q8. Are all commodities eligible for payments?

A8. We are collecting data on all commodities, including forestry, and seeking clarification from the USDA on the eligible of aquaculture and hemp.

Q9. While the program hasn't been developed yet, are there any ideas about possible grant funding levels?

A9. Not at this time.

Q10. Will there be an RFP for the partnership? Will there be an advisory committee or some other mechanism for feedback while you are developing program guidance?

A10. We'll be working with the disaster group previously established, and spearheaded by RC&D, which includes many industry partner association and independent farmers.

Q11. Are horse farms eligible to receive funding for losses?

A11. If the equine business meets the CT Definition of Agriculture, <https://portal.ct.gov/doag/commissioner/commissioner/definition-of-agriculture>, we encourage them to submit their numbers. Eligibility for the future program will be determined once USDA approves our program guidance.

FAQ's

Q12. Are we submitting for both 2023 and 2024 loses?

A12. Yes!

Q13. I encouraged many farmers to fill out the survey but due to not having “traditional” record keeping or no records due to cash sales (as many of us farmers do business), they are not applying or participating. How can we encourage their participation?

A13. We encourage all farmers to submit their loss numbers and keep track of what the rationale for the numbers submitted reflects.

Q14. If we had to purchase produce to cover what we lost, is that a valid expense that is covered?

A14. This is a great example of a ‘naturally absorbed’ expense. This should be factored into your calculation for the survey submission.

FAQ's

Q15. If we do not have crop insurance but sustained damage, are we still eligible to apply for this program?

A15. Enrollment in crop insurance is not a limiting factor to submit to the survey. Eligibility for the future program will be determined once USDA approves our program guidance.

Q16. I understand people that complete the survey do not automatically qualify for the future program, but what about people who do not complete the survey? Are they ineligible to receive funds?

A16. No, this program is open to all CT farmers regardless of their participation in the survey but the more farmers that submit numbers through the survey, the higher the state allocation will likely be and the more funds we have to distribute in the future.

Q17. If a farmer has to stop normal production work in order to address some climate pressure, at what labor rate should they value their work? (As opposed to farm crew with set pay rates)?

A17. If the farmer doesn't have a known rate, we often refer to the Independent Sector: "According to the Independent Sector's 2024 Value of Volunteer Time report, the value of a volunteer hour in Connecticut was \$36.44. This is a 5.3% increase from the previous year."

FAQ's

Q18. Are there eligibility limits (e.g. AGI)?

A18. There are no eligibility limits to submit the survey. Eligibility for the future program will be determined once USDA approves our program guidance.

QUESTIONS?

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Future Questions or Inquiries:

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