

Summary of Disaster Recovery Resources as Presented at the Florida Citrus Mutual Post-Hurricane Ian Grower Meeting

TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

This U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) program can assist growers who have lost trees due to the hurricane. Key takeaways are:

- You must demonstrate 18% normal mortality to qualify for replacement trees or rehabilitation.
- You have 90 days to apply for TAP when damage becomes apparent.
- You cannot start work on damaged trees until approved for the program. NOTE: Local USDA representatives are applying for a waiver to this rule.
- If you have used TAP before and are in the system, you will get approved quickly, when funding is granted. If you have not participated, an environmental inspection is required. USDA is bringing additional inspectors to expedite the process.
- Get more information on TAP [here](#)
- Find your FSA county office [here](#).

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP)

- This USDA Farm Service Agency program assists with debris removal, fence repairs and other clean-up activities. Key takeaways include:
- Funding for this program has not yet been approved but has been applied for.
- You will need an onsite inspection before funds are approved.
- Provide as much information as you can about the nature of work needed under this program.
- Get more information on ECP [here](#).
- Find your FSA county office [here](#).

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP) DISASTER PROGRAM

- [This program from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#) will address resource needs like irrigation, grazing and wildlife habitat systems. It is designed to address immediate needs like tree and debris removal, fence repair, and cleaning ditches and canals to clear the way for conservation practices to be completed. Key takeaways are:
- Funding for this program is not yet set, but you should contact NRCS to report damages and needs.
- Take photos and document what damage you need

assistance in cleaning up.

- Don't forget the regular EQIP program, which can provide cost-share dollars for things like irrigation improvements and other land improvement and conservation measures.
- Individual protective covers (or citrus tree bags) is a new practice under EQIP's General and Emergency Programs. Both solid and reset plantings are eligible for cost-share, which will be based on the density of planting. Florida Citrus Mutual has worked with NRCS for the last several months in an effort to get this program developed and in place to assist growers.
- Contact the NRCS state office at 352-338-9500.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES (UF/IFAS)

UF/IFAS has many [resources available](#) to growers to help them with the rehabilitation of trees damaged by the hurricane.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

FEMA can aid growers who may have damage to their property and homes. The programs the agency offers are aimed at jumpstarting recovery. FEMA can provide temporary lodging and funds for home repair. It also can provide for disaster-related expenses such as dental, medical, childcare, legal and unemployment. To date, the federal government has approved more than \$268 million in funds for Hurricane Ian relief. Apply for FEMA assistance [here](#).

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

When there is a disaster declaration by the President, the SBA can help homeowners, renters, businesses and non-profits with low-interest loans. These loans are available for both physical damage and economic injury. Get more information on SBA loans [here](#).

IMPORTANT NOTE: All growers impacted by Hurricane Ian should put their names on the USDA hurricane register. Email sm.fpac.fsa.fl.disaster@usda.gov or call 877-508-8364.

This list was compiled in part by Frank Giles, Editor-in-Chief of AgNet Media Publications and can be found online at <https://citrusindustry.net/2022/10/14/citrus-crop-estimate-luncheon-pivots-to-ian-recovery-resources/>.