

#VERMONTSTRONG

A GUIDE TO EMERGENCY AID FOR VERMONT'S LAND STEWARDS

SAFETY & EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Road Closures: [New England 511](#) (For phone, dial 511)

This resource shows a map and provides information on road closures.

Drying Centers and Shelters: [Vermont 211](#) (For phone, dial 211)

Vermont 211 is a free, confidential information and referral program of the United Ways of Vermont, helping to connect Vermonters with a wide range of community, health, and human resources and services. On the homepage is a list of drying centers and shelters in Vermont.

Safety and Emergency Alerts: [Vermont Alert](#)

VT-ALERT is used by the state and local responders to notify the public of emergency situations. Those include, but are not limited to, evacuation information; chemical spills; shelter-in-place alerts; severe weather advisories; boil water advisories, and roadway interruptions.

River Levels and Forecasts: [Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service](#)

Interactive map that shows current flood and precipitation levels and forecasts.

Flooding Safety in 17 Languages: [Vermont Language Justice Project](#) & [Vermont Health Department](#)

Flooding safety and links to additional resources available in multiple languages.

Community Preparedness Resources: [Vermont Emergency Management](#)

Resource specific to flooding, power outages, and driving in hazardous conditions in many languages.

Mutual Aid: [#VTFlood23 Response and Recovery Mutual Aid](#)

This Facebook group has town specific groups, and you can share assistance and resources you need or can give.

Disaster Crisis Counseling: [Disaster Distress Helpline](#) (For phone, dial 1-800-985-5990)

National hotline dedicated to providing year-round disaster crisis counseling. This toll-free, multilingual, crisis support service is available 24/7 to all residents in the U.S. and its territories who are experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters.

Drinking Water Guidance: [Vermont Department of Health](#)

(For phone, dial 802-338-4724)

Information for residential private water systems (wells and springs). [Free Drinking Water Test Kits](#) are available for people whose private well or spring water systems have been impacted.

Flood Recovery: [Vermont Agency of Natural Resources](#)

Home Clean Up: [Centers for Disease Control](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has information on safe clean-up practices.



Access this resource online by scanning the QR code or visit: vacd.org/2023Flooding

FARM, CROP & FORESTRY RESOURCES



If you are a producer, please contact your local [USDA Farm Service Agency](#) office to report any damages or losses as soon as possible.

Crop Loss Disaster Assistance Programs: [Farm Service Agency \(FSA\)](#)

Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Pays covered producers of covered non insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters (includes native grass for grazing). Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for the current crop year. [Limited Resource](#), [Beginning Farmer](#), [SDA Farmer](#), [Veteran Farmer](#) individuals may have been automatically enrolled in [FSA NAP coverage](#).

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

Provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Farmland Damage Disaster Assistance Programs: [Farm Service Agency \(FSA\)](#)

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

Helps farmers and ranchers repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and helps put in place water conservation methods during severe drought.

Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)

Helps owners of non-industrial private forests restore forest health damaged by natural disasters.

Farm Loans Disaster Assistance Programs: [Farm Service Agency \(FSA\)](#)

Emergency Loan Program

Provides loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine by animal quarantine laws or imposed by the Secretary under the Plant Protection Act.

Disaster Set-Aside Program

Provides producers who have existing direct loans with FSA who are unable to make the scheduled payments to move up to one full year's payment to the end of the loan. Assistance is available in counties, or contiguous counties, who have been designated as emergencies by the President, Secretary or FSA Administrator.

Livestock Assistance Disaster Assistance Programs: [Farm Service Agency \(FSA\)](#)

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

Provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or that is planted specifically for grazing.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

Provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or by attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government.

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

Provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease (including cattle tick fever), adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by LFP and LIP.

Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP)

Provides livestock producers, who have approved applications through the 2021 Livestock Forage Disaster Program for forage losses due to severe drought or wildfire, emergency relief payments to compensate for increases in supplemental feed costs. No producer applications required.

What's right for me? Use the [USDA Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#) to learn what assistance programs are the best fit for you.

FARM, CROP & FORESTRY RESOURCES

Flooding Disaster Response and Recovery Resources: [Vermont Agency of Agriculture](#)

This hub provides information on reporting losses, recovery donation opportunities, soil testing, and resources specifically for dairy operations, crop farmers, meat and poultry processors, produce growers, and more.

Review the basic timeline and information about [Federal Flood Recovery Programs](#).

[Take this Survey:](#) The Vermont Agency of Agriculture wants to understand the overall impact of this natural disaster and use it to inform response efforts, effectively allocate resources, and advocate for future relief and recovery programs.

Cost Share Programs: Vermont Agency of Agriculture & [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)

While not flood specific, Vermont programs provide assistance to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits. Programs include [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#), [Pasture and Surface Water Fencing \(PSWF\) Program](#), and the [Farm Agronomic Practices Program](#).

Information on Managing Flood-Damaged Crops: [UVM Extension](#)

- [Managing Flood Damaged Crops and Forage](#)
- [Managing Flood Damaged Corn](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions About Handling Flooded Produce:](#) *This document reflects UVM's best effort to interpret federal food safety guidance and related scientific research, and to translate this into practical management options.*

Check with the [Vermont Agency of Agriculture](#) for a list of updated resources and recordings, including a Q&A on flood damaged crops

Free Soil Testing: [UVM Extension](#) (For phone, dial 1-802-656-3030)

*UVM Extension is offering soil testing, including heavy metals, at no-charge to Vermont farms for flooded fields until **August 15, 2023**. Make a note on the yellow soil questionnaire submitted with the sample that the soil is from a flooded field.*

UVM Spatial Analysis Lab: [UVM Extension](#)

UVM's team is working hard to inventory the damage using drones and satellites. If a farm needs evidence of damage to get relief funds, please reach out via email at: uas@uvm.edu.

Stress Support: [Farm First](#) (For phone, dial 802-318-5538 during business hours, or 877-493-6216 after hours)

Farm First is a free, Vermont-based program providing farmers and their families with support, resources and information to reduce stress. We can help connect you to resources, including technical, legal or financial assistance, as well as to a counselor or trained peer. You don't have to be alone with your challenges. We're good listeners and can help you address the challenges you face. We're here to help.

Farm Emergency Loans: [Vermont Farm Fund](#)

VFF seeks to minimize the hurdles to secure a loan and receive funds to begin the recovery process. The maximum Emergency Loan amount is currently \$15,000. This is a zero-interest loan payable over 36-48 months, with an option to defer payments for up to 12 months.

Farmer Emergency Fund: [NOFA Vermont](#)

The NOFA-VT Farmer Emergency Fund is available to assist Vermont certified organic and NOFA-VT member commercial farmers who are in financial need after having been adversely affected by natural and unnatural disasters. Farmers may request up to \$5,000 in grants that do not need to be repaid.

[Take this survey:](#) NOFA is conducting an initial assessment of the impact of the July 2023 floods on farms throughout Vermont.

Distribution Matchmaking Tool: [NOFA Vermont](#)

The tool allows farmers seeking distribution points, farmstand outlets, sales collaboration, or equipment to connect with farms that are looking for additional products or partnerships or who have the infrastructure resources to help other farms in need.

CROP INSURANCE

Natural Disasters and Crop Insurance: [Risk Management Agency](#)

For those farmers who have Federal (USDA Risk Management Agency) crop insurance coverage, they need to report crop damage/losses to their insurance agents within 72 hours of discovering the crop loss. Then they need to follow up in writing within 15 days. The AIPs (Approved Insurance Providers), loss adjusters and agents are experienced and trained in handling natural disaster events.

**Effective July 21, 2023 RMA has authorized emergency procedures to streamline certain determinations, including the destruction of adulterated production to accelerate the adjustment of losses and issuance of indemnity payments to crop insurance policyholders in impacted areas. Full details of this RMA emergency authorizations can be found [here](#).*

GRANTS & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS OR BUSINESSES

FEMA Assistance for Individuals: [FEMA Disaster Assistance](#)

Information and resources from FEMA and link to submit a claim.

FEMA Assistance for Businesses: [Small Business Administration](#)

SBA provides low-interest disaster loans to help businesses and homeowners recover from declared disasters.

Vermont Flood Response and Recovery Fund: [Vermont Community Foundation](#)

The VT Flood Response and Recovery Fund 2023 was established to support Vermonters in responding to and recovering from the catastrophic rainfall across Vermont in 2023.

Vermont Main Street Flood Recovery Fund: [Vermont Recovery 2023](#)

Provides grants to Vermont's small business owners impacted by flooding. The Fund will provide grants in the range of \$2,500-\$10,000 to cover costs such as equipment replacement, supplies and help with clean-up.

Business Emergency Gap Program: [The Department of Economic Development](#)

Businesses will be eligible for a grant of 20% of the net documented uncovered damage to their physical property up to a maximum of \$20,000. For properties that sustained more than a million dollars of damage, grant amounts may exceed the \$20,000 cap. Those grants will be 20% of net documented uncovered physical damage up to \$500,000 based on the number of employees and total damage they sustained.

Flood Recovery for Rivers & Streams: [Vermont Agency of Natural Resources](#)

Learn the measures to be taken if the flood events require work within rivers and streams to protect and repair human investments and related infrastructure.

Flood Recovery Guidance for Lawns & Gardens: [UVM Extension](#)

After the Flood – Tips on Edible Garden Plants: [UVM Extension](#)

This info sheet may help you navigate next steps for handling flooded edible garden plants including annual vegetable crops and edible perennial plants like herbs, rhubarb, brambles and blueberries, tree fruit, etc. This information is intended for home and community gardeners.

Check for regular announcements and updates from the [office of Governor Phil Scott](#), including upcoming emergency gap funding for Vermont's businesses.

GRANTS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR TOWNS & ORGANIZATIONS

Emergency Management Performance Grants: [Vermont Emergency Management](#)

The purpose of Emergency Management Performance Grants is to assist state and local governments in enhancing and sustaining all-hazards emergency management capabilities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides the funding to local jurisdictions through the states.

Emergency Watershed Protection: [Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#)

NRCS partners with diverse sponsors (cities, counties, towns, conservation districts, or any federally-recognized Native American tribe or tribal organization) to apply for EWP Program assistance directly to NRCS while public and private landowners can apply for this assistance through a local sponsor.

The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program is designed for installation of recovery measures to safeguard life and property as a result of natural disasters like the one we're experiencing now. Typically, NRCS can cover 75% of the cost of activities related to addressing "watershed impairments."

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants: [Vermont Emergency Management](#)

[Flood Resilient Communities Fund \(FRCF\)](#)

This program will prioritize projects that are not eligible for FEMA funding. Available funding is \$14,750,000 in fiscal year 2023. The next and potentially last application deadline is **July 31, 2023**.

[Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#)

Grant program to states and local communities for mitigation activities. The funding available in 2022 was \$2 million for federal share set-aside for Vermont with up to \$1 million available for planning activities. Funding can be used for Project Scoping to project implementation. We are currently waiting for FEMA to release the notice of funding for 2023 and anticipate an early December 2023 State deadline.

[Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\)](#)

Grant program funds states, local communities, tribes, and territories to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). We are currently waiting for FEMA to release the notice of funding for 2023 and anticipate an early December 2023 State deadline.

[Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\)](#)

Funding is opening for the major disaster declared for power outages in December 2023. Entities interested in applying do not need to have damages from that event. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the funding has been utilized, until Friday, December 15, 2023 if funding has not been obligated sooner.

FEMA Public Assistance Program: [Vermont Emergency Management](#)

The FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program provides federal disaster assistance to state and local government organizations for debris removal, emergency protective measures and the permanent restoration or replacement of public facilities that are owned and operated by an eligible Applicant. Assistance may also be provided to certain private non-profit organizations that provide services of a governmental nature open to all persons within the community.

* To apply for assistance, each organization must submit a [Request for Public Assistance in the FEMA Grants Portal](#) within 30 days of the date of the presidential declaration.

UVM Extension is crowd sourcing a list of resources. To view or add additional resources, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/VTflood23



GUIDES & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

FEMA Vermont Flooding: [EM-3595-VT](#)

Press releases, fact sheets, general resources and information specific to this disaster.

Flood Recovery Resources: [UVM Extension](#)

General resources and farm specific resources.

Flood Ready Vermont: [State of Vermont](#)

Quick links for help or to help others after a flood.

Health Information: [State of Vermont](#)

Information on how to stay safe during a flood.

Mental Health Resources and Support: [Vermont Mental Health](#) (For phone, dial 1-800-985-5990)

A free, confidential, multilingual crisis support service is available to anyone experiencing distress as a result of a disaster.

Disaster Recovery Guide: [Vermont Small Business Development Center](#)

The center developed this guide while working with Vermont businesses after Hurricane Irene. It is designed as a working guide that will direct you through the steps as you consider how to proceed post-disaster.

Front Porch Forum: [Front Porch Forum](#)

Front Porch Forum is a free community-building service in Vermont and parts of New York. To support community recovery efforts, FPF launched an emergency feature – the [Regional Disaster Response Board](#) – to facilitate mutual aid across communities and share vital updates. Just post to your local Forum, and any disaster-response-related postings will show up on your region's board.

Bites Newsletter: [Small Bites Newsletter](#)

Read stories of farm and food related businesses impacted by flooding.

VOLUNTEER & DONATE

Vermont Volunteer Coordination: [Vermont State Volunteer Portal](#)

Volunteer portal organized by the state where you can register and provide information on how you are able to help.

Vermont Disaster Relief Fund: [Vermont Disaster Recovery Fund](#)


The fund was established and is managed by an independent, non-profit organization, the Vermont Long-Term Recovery Group. Coordinating volunteers and accepting donations.

Vermont Flood Response and Recovery Fund: [Vermont Community Foundation](#)

This fund was established to support Vermonters in responding to and recovering from the catastrophic rainfall across Vermont in 2023. As we work with nonprofit organizations and state officials to learn where the need is and how to help, we will continue to provide updates. Accepting donations.

Vermont's 14 Natural Resources Conservation Districts are working closely with our communities, organizations, and government agencies to coordinate efforts and resources related to the flooding. Those in need of assistance can reach out to their local Conservation District. We are ready and available to help you address concerns, navigate available resources, and plan for a more resilient future.

Conservation Districts are community-based hubs, connecting people, organizations, and resources to steward our land and water resources.

 VERMONT
NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

CONTACT US AT
[VACD.ORG/CONTACT-NRCDS](https://vacd.org/contact-nrcds)