



Help in the midst of **FLOOD**

In collaboration with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies, you can prevent, respond to and repair flood damage on your land.

Flood Assistance

Programs and services available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Floods cause loss of life and damage to structures, crops, land, flood control structures, roads, and utilities. Floods also cause erosion and landslides, and can transport debris and toxic products that cause secondary damage. Flood damage in Washington State exceeds damage by all other natural hazards. Chances are agricultural producers near rivers and streams will experience flood-related losses at some point. Every county has received at least one Presidential disaster declaration for flooding since 1970 (**Washington State Emergency Management Division**). This brochure covers federal assistance for flood disasters but also includes important state contacts. It provides useful information to help producers prepare for floods as well as recover from them.

USDA agencies provide producers with assistance ranging from data and reports, which serve as early flood warnings, to crop insurance opportunities for damaged or lost crops to other recovery needs following floods.



An aerial view of flooded cropland.

Flood Preparation & Planning—Before the Flood

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) annually monitors the state's snowpack. The data gathered is combined with other weather data to report on current and predict future streamflows. The Water Supply Outlook reports are useful for early flood warnings.

Washington State University (WSU) Extension provides a wealth of flood planning considerations, lessons learned from previous floods and more on their Extension Disaster Education Network flood webpage: **www.extension.org/floods**.

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) operates and manages the Federal Crop Insurance Program. Private-sector insurance companies sell and service the Federal Crop Insurance policies. Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) is a federally subsidized program, assisting farm producers with the payment of their crop insurance premium costs and covers more than just floods. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) that covers crops for which insurance is unavailable. Both MPCI and NAP may provide financial compensation if a producer has a crop loss, but crop insurance and NAP coverage must be purchased by set dates in advance of a loss. Having crop insurance and/or NAP coverage is required for producers to meet eligibility criteria for some of the other federal disaster assistance programs. Crop insurance and FSA require crop acreage reports of acres planted and covered.



Flood waters can cause major soil erosion.

NRCS may purchase easements on any floodplain lands that have been impaired within the last 12 months or that have a history of repeated flooding. **Floodplain easements** restore, protect, maintain, and enhance the functions of the floodplain. NRCS also provides technical assistance to restore floodplains.

Flood Recovery—After the Flood

It is important for producers to report crop and livestock loss and damages as soon as the loss/damage becomes apparent. Reports should be made to FSA and crop insurance agents. Many programs have deadlines for reporting loss/damage.

WSU Extension offers advice for cleanup and recovery on the Disaster Education Network flood webpage: www.extension.org/floods.

Help with Crops

Flooding or excessive rain can cause crop loss, damage or prevent planting of a crop. RMA's Multi-Peril Crop Insurance and FSA's Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program are the primary means to financially compensate producers for these situations. RMA also has the Adjusted Gross Revenue whole farm insurance program available in all counties. FSA has a Supplemental Revenue Assurance Payment Program, which may provide compensation if revenue losses result from flood damage. FSA also has a Tree Assistance Program to help cover the costs of replanting trees and vines lost to natural disasters.

RMA lists crops covered and details related to coverage on their web site: www.rma.usda.gov and a list of crop agents can be found at www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/agents.

Disaster Designations

The availability of some federal programs and services depend on a disaster designation being made. If the Governor makes a determination that a disaster exceeds the resources or authority of the state, the Governor will request a federal disaster designation. For agriculture, this could be a designation by the Secretary of Agriculture or the President. Presidential or Secretarial disaster designations trigger assistance available from federal agencies. Secretarial designations result in the availability of more programs specific to agriculture.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (**FEMA**) has overall responsibility for coordinating disaster response among the many federal agencies. FEMA has a website devoted to flood preparation and recovery. (www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/index.shtm). Another FEMA site includes a map of disaster designations: www.fema.gov/dhsusda/searchState.do

Help with Livestock

Floods can result in loss of livestock, feed or forage. FSA's Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) pays producers for the death of commercial livestock due to flooding and other natural disasters. FSA's Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides financial compensation for livestock feed and grazing losses. It also covers some livestock deaths not covered by the Livestock Indemnity Program. ELAP includes death losses of eligible bait fish or game fish. The disaster programs include livestock raised for commercial purposes but not for recreational purposes.

FSA also maintains an electronic site for producers in need of hay or who have hay available to exchange information: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Participating Agencies

Natural Resources Conservation Service

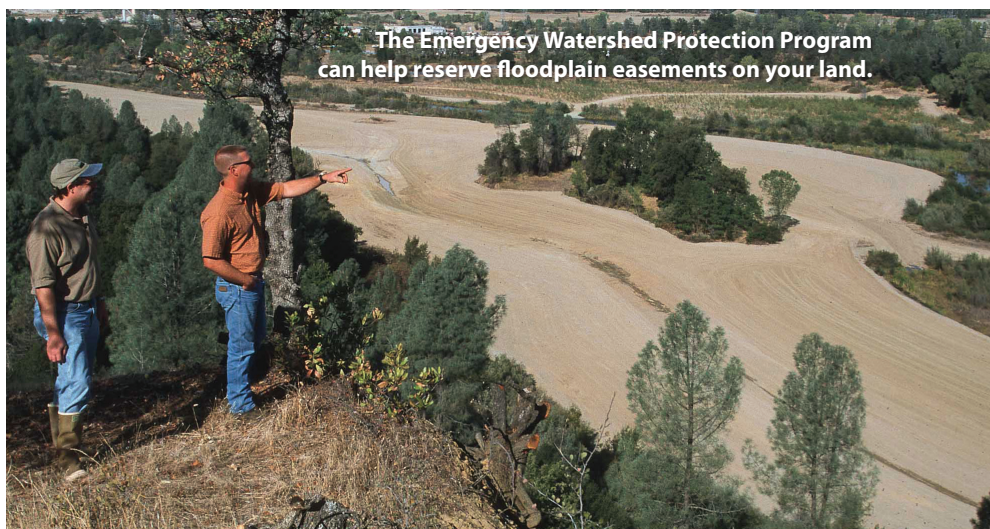
Farm Services Agency

Risk Management Agency

Rural Development

Washington State University Extension

National Agriculture Statistics Service



Help with Equipment, Buildings and Property

FSA's low-interest Emergency Loan Program 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. FSA's Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by floods and other natural disasters. The program includes replacing conservation measures such as fencing along a stream. FSA's Emergency Forest Restoration Program makes payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest land in order to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by floods and other natural disasters.

NRCS' Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) provides funding to project sponsors for such work as clearing debris from clogged waterways, restoring vegetation, and stabilizing river banks. The measures that are taken must be environmentally and economically sound and generally benefit more than one property owner.

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Help with Equipment, Buildings and Property (continued)

Rural Development's (RD) Home Repair Program can help people with damaged homes that need rehabilitation and repair. In an emergency, USDA can also help rural residents manage payments on existing loans or get new loans for needed repairs. Additionally, residents living in RD financed apartments who have been displaced by wide spread flooding may qualify to receive priority admission to any RD vacant apartment units.

NRCS's EWP provides funding to project sponsors for such work as clearing debris from clogged waterways, restoring vegetation, and stabilizing river banks. The measures that are taken must be environmentally and economically sound and generally benefit more than one property owner.

USDA Agency Contacts in Washington

Farm Service Agency

State Office 316 W. Boone, Ste. 568

Spokane, WA 99201

Phone: (509) 323-3000

Web: www.fsa.usda.gov/wa

(includes county office locator)

Natural Resources Conservation Service

State Office 316 W. Boone, Ste 450

Spokane, WA 99201

Phone: (509) 323-2900

Web: www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov

(includes county office locator)

Risk Management Agency

Spokane Regional Office

11707 E. Sprague Avenue, Suite 201

Phone: (509) 228-6320

Email: rsowa@rma.usda.gov

Web: www.rma.usda.gov

Rural Development

State Office 1835 Black Lake Blvd SW, Ste B

Olympia, WA 98512

Phone: (360) 704-7700

Web: www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa

(includes area office contacts)

WSU Extension

Web: <http://extension.wsu.edu/locations/Pages/default.aspx>

(includes county office contacts)

WSU Extension Disaster Education Network

Web: <http://ext.wsu.edu/eden>

State Contacts

Access WA Flood Emergency

Web: <http://access.wa.gov/emergency/flood.aspx>

Washington State Department of Agriculture

PO Box 42560

Olympia, WA 98504-2560

Phone: (360) 902-1800

Web: <http://agr.wa.gov>

Department of Ecology

Scott McKinney

PO Box 47600

Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Phone: (360) 407-6389

Email: scott.mckinney@ecy.wa.gov

Web: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/floods/index.html



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September 2011