

# Small Farms on The Move

July 2020

## RESOURCE GUIDE IDENTIFYING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO FARMERS AND AGRIBUSINESSES

NC State Extension has put together a resource guide identifying financial assistance available to farmers and agribusinesses across the state who continue trying to recover from impacts related to Covid-19. Although this may not be an all-inclusive list, it does attempt to include all the resources the university is aware of at this time. Please feel free to view and contact the appropriate agency for more information.

View the list at the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14B2eoruhstmMwJ2YXPK5WkVPIw2BLkM8UuNvL\\_ZImSU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14B2eoruhstmMwJ2YXPK5WkVPIw2BLkM8UuNvL_ZImSU/edit?usp=sharing)

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I hope you find this resource helpful.

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James Hartsfield, Sampson County Extension Farm Management Agent, and I will continue to provide farmers with important information on timely topics and upcoming events. If you are interested in learning more about any information in this newsletter, contact me at the Extension Center or e-mail me at [Nelson\\_Brownlee@ncsu.edu](mailto:Nelson_Brownlee@ncsu.edu).

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### ABOUT N.C. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

N.C. Cooperative Extension is a strategic partnership of NC State Extension, The Cooperative Extension Program at N.C. A&T State University, USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA), and local governments statewide. Extension professionals in all 100 counties and with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians connect millions of North Carolinians with research-based information and technology from NC State and N.C. A&T. Educational programs specialize in agriculture, food and nutrition, 4-H youth development, community development and the environment.

## CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CFAP)

Are you a farmer or rancher whose operation has been directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic? The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, or CFAP, provides vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five percent or greater price decline, or had losses due to market supply chain disruptions due to COVID-19 and face additional significant market costs. Eligible commodities include:

- **Wool**
- **Dairy**
- **Livestock:** cattle, hogs, and sheep (lambs and yearlings only)
- **Non-Specialty Crops:** malting barley, canola, corn, upland cotton, millet, oats, soybeans, sorghum, sunflowers, durum wheat, and hard red spring wheat
- **Specialty Crops:**
  - **Fruits:** apples, avocados, blueberries, cantaloupe, grapefruit, kiwifruit, lemons, oranges, papaya, peaches, pears, raspberries, strawberries, tangerines, tomatoes, watermelons
  - **Vegetables:** artichokes, asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, iceberg lettuce, romaine lettuce, dry onions, green onions, peppers, potatoes, rhubarb, spinach, squash, sweet potatoes, taro
  - **Nuts:** almonds, pecans, walnuts
  - **Other:** beans, mushrooms



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting applications now through August 28, 2020. Producers should apply through the Farm Service Agency at their local USDA Service Center. More information can be found at <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap>.

## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS BEFORE THE STORM: ARE YOUR LIVESTOCK PREPARED?

The 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season officially began June 1. Here in Southeastern North Carolina we have been affected by many tropical storms and hurricanes over the years, including Hurricanes Matthew and Florence. Before another storm strikes our part of the state, livestock farmers should take several steps to be prepared. These steps include:



- Establish an Emergency Plan
- Secure equipment
- Clear debris from drainage ditches
- Remove dead or damaged trees
- Keep livestock barns, gates, and fencing in good repair
- Prepare farm vehicles and machinery: gasoline and oil
- Take farm inventory livestock and equipment
- Regularly review insurance policies
- Secure animals: move to secure pastures or higher locations. Never leave livestock in closed barn.
- Stock-up: provide sufficient food and water for 48 hours. Fill feed bunks and water troughs.
- Livestock identification: permanent is best.
- Livestock emergency kits

Remember animal lives are important, but human safety is most important. Do not take unnecessary risks during or after a storm to check livestock. For more information, please contact the Extension Center.

## RISK MANAGEMENT BASICS: WHAT EVERY FARMER NEEDS TO KNOW

Agricultural producers make decisions in a risky environment every day. With the Coronavirus Pandemic currently sweeping the world, producers are faced with decisions, which could have major impacts on their farm operations. There are three primary risks from COVID-19 that all farmers should consider at this time:

1. Disruption of income
2. Impact on food and farm safety
3. Impact on human health

### ***Disruption of Income***

Normal marketing channels have been disrupted in a number of ways because of coronavirus. Normal farm contracts have been reduced or canceled due to the closure of schools and other institutions, the limiting of services, or closure of restaurants. In addition, farmers markets may either be closed or have limited operating hours, depending on their location and local restrictions. Things to consider to protect farm income include:

- Creating or building another marketing channel, such as selling online via a website or social media.
- Establishing an on-farm pickup service.
- Joining or creating a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) group.
- Joining or creating a food hub.
- Combining resources with other farmers for production and post-harvest handling.
- Accessing lender resources if needed, such as insurance documents, loans and other financial records.
- Communicating with Cooperative Extension, Farm Service Agency (FSA), Risk Management Agency (RMA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and other providers of resources and services.



### ***Food and Farm Safety***

Produce and farm contamination from COVID-19 can be a major risk for farmers. The following guidelines can help you minimize that risk:

- Create or review a food safety plan per the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act guidelines.
- Practice good agricultural practices (GAP).
- Create procedures for customers who visit your farm.
- Follow social distancing guidelines
- Pick your own produce, and create a pickup system for U-pick operations.
- Sterilize production and postharvest equipment after each use.

### ***Human Health***

Coming into contact with someone who has COVID-19 is a real possibility. Be aware that some people do not show signs of having the virus, but may still have and spread it. To protect the health of you, your workers, and your customers, consider the following:

- Follow COVID-19 health guidelines, such as those provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Wash hands frequently.
- Wear gloves and a mask.
- Ensure good health for anyone who works on the farm, including yourself.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**(SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

**74<sup>th</sup> Robeson Regional Agricultural Fair - October 2-10, 2020 - Robeson County Fairgrounds, Highway 41 South, Lumberton** – *Pending Fair Board decision and government recommendations concerning COVID-19 safety.* There will be lots of rides and entertainment, farm exhibits, great food, and fun. Come join us at the Fair!

**2021 North Carolina Small Farms Week, March 21-27, 2021** - The North Carolina A&T Cooperative Extension Program will coordinate various programs throughout the state honoring North Carolina's small farmers. Extension programs that benefit small-scale agriculture will also be recognized during the period. Look for more details later.

