



Letter No. 3690.2012
Friday, November 2, 2012
Creative Media & Broadcast Center
202-720-7079

BROADCASTERS LETTER
#3690.2012
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(November 2)

**USDA OFFERS HOUSING ASSISTANCE TO
RURAL EAST COAST RESIDENTS
AFFECTED BY HURRICANE SANDY**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a comprehensive effort to help USDA-financed homeowners in areas affected by Hurricane Sandy. USDA encourages homeowners and business owners in rural communities to contact their local Rural Development office for housing, business or community assistance information. For details of help aimed at rural communities and residents in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic visit [USDA Newsroom](#).

Additional information about assistance programs, safety tips and updates about USDA's hurricane relief efforts are posted on the Web at www.usda.gov/disaster. Click on the hurricane relief link. Click here for a list of Rural Development offices <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/StateOfficeAddresses.html>. And information about the U.S. Government's hurricane response efforts is available at www.ready.gov.

USDA, also through its Rural Development mission area, has an active portfolio of more than \$174 billion in loans and loan guarantees. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America.

Contact: Candice Celestin: (202) 690-2385

Story Info: [USDA Newsroom](#)

Radio Story: [USDA Helping Rural Citizens Hit By Super Storm, Sandy](#)



**FORECASTERS WARN OF ANOTHER
ATLANTIC COAST STORM ON THE WAY**

Atlantic coast residents could soon have another storm to battle. Former Pennsylvania dairy farmer Dave Williams saying he and his fellow farmers and neighbors are bracing for the nor'easter slated to hit the East Coast in just a few days.

Radio Info: [Forecasters Warn Of Another Atlantic Coast Storm On The Way](#)
[ACTUALITY: Northeastern Farmers Bracing For More Bad Weather](#)

**A CONSERVATION PROGRAM TO
RESPOND TO HURRICANE SANDY**

A Natural Resources Conservation Service program is designed to help clean up waterways impacted by super storm Sandy.

Radio Info: [A Conservation Program To Respond To Super Storm Sandy](#)

(November 1)

**AGRICULTURE SECRETARY TOM VILSACK'S COMMENTS
ON HURRICANE SANDY**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack shares his thoughts on super storm Hurricane Sandy.

Radio Info: [ACTUALITY: Vilsack's Comments On Sandy](#)

**AGRICULTURE SECRETARY TOM VILSACK'S COMMENTS
ON THE LATEST JOBS REPORT NUMBERS**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack commented on Friday's jobs report showing that 171,000 jobs were added in October and that the unemployment rate went up one tenth of one percent. The report was for October and did not reflect work stoppages from Hurricane Sandy

Radio Info: [ACTUALITY: Vilsack Comments On Latest Jobs Numbers](#)

ASSESSING HURRICANE SANDY'S AFTERMATH

Victims of Hurricane Sandy continue to assess storm damage. Pennsylvania farm broadcaster Dave Williams talked about how people are handling Hurricane Sandy.

Radio Info: [Assessing Sandy's Aftermath](#)
[ACTUALITY: Hurricane Sandy Brings Communities Together](#)

(October 31)

**USDA MOBILIZES TO ASSIST THOSE
AFFECTED BY HURRICANE SANDY**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is taking steps in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist those affected by Hurricane Sandy. In addition to working with FEMA and other departments, agencies, state and local governments, USDA is also reaching out to farmers and ranchers in states affected by recent extreme weather. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, USDA personnel are working in the following areas:

- USDA Forest Service (FS)
- USDA Rural Development (RD)
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)
- USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
- USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
- USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA)

Additional resources to help farmers and ranchers deal with flooding and other damage may be found at www.usda.gov/disaster. To find the USDA Service Center nearest you, please visit <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=us&agency=fsa>. Also visit: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=HurricaneInfo.xml>

Contact: USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-4623

Story Info: [USDA Newsroom](#)

Radio Story: [Forest Service Crews Part Of Sandy Response Efforts](#)

[ACTUALITY: On Forest Service Teams And Role In Response](#)

**FARMERS AND RANCHERS URGED TO
RECORD LOSSES FROM HURRICANE SANDY**

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Juan M. Garcia is urging farmers and ranchers affected by Hurricane Sandy to keep thorough records of all losses, including livestock death losses, as well as expenses for such things as feed purchases and extraordinary costs because of lost supplies and or increased transportation costs.

FSA recommends that owners and producers record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses;
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts;
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures;
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed;
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records;

- Pictures of on-farm storage facilities that were destroyed by wind or flood waters; and
- Evidence of damaged farm land.

Producers with damaged farmland should contact their local FSA office. The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) may be able to assist producer who need to repair farmland or remove debris due to Hurricane Sandy. FSA currently has \$15.5 million available for producers in counties that received a Major Disaster declaration pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Producers located in counties that have not received a Major Disaster declaration should visit their local FSA office for information on ECP if funding becomes available in the future.

Producers with private forest land that was damaged should also visit their local FSA office for information on the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP). EFRP provides assistance to landowners of private forest land to help carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster. Currently no funding is available, however, producers should visit their local FSA office for information if funding becomes available.

USDA's Risk Management Agency reminds producers faced with questions on prevented planting, replant, or crop losses to contact their crop insurance agent for more information. Producers who need emergency credit due may receive assistance through the Emergency Loan Program if they need assistance recovering from production and physical losses due to natural disasters. Producers are eligible for these loans as soon as their county is declared a Presidential or Secretarial disaster county.

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack also reminds producers that the department's authority to operate the five disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill expired on Sept. 30, 2011. This includes SURE; the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP); the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Production losses due to disasters occurring after Sept. 30, 2011, are not eligible for disaster program coverage.

Crops insured by federal crop insurance or by the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) are covered when floodwaters have rendered them valueless. USDA encourages all farmers and ranchers to contact their crop insurance companies and local USDA Farm Service Agency Service Centers, as applicable, to report damages to crops or livestock loss. More information about federal crop insurance may be found at www.rma.usda.gov. Additional resources to help farmers and ranchers deal with flooding and other damage may be found at www.usda.gov/disaster. Visit [USDA Service Center](#) to find the center nearest you. Also visit: [USDA Government Hurricane Info](#)

Contact: Kent Politsch Kent.Politsch@WDC.USDA.Gov (202) 720-7163

Story Info: [USDA Newsroom](#)

Radio Info: [Farm Service Agency Efforts In Sandy Response](#)

[ACTUALITY: On Keeping Records Of Livestock Losses](#)

[ACTUALITY: On Assessing Disaster Related Crop Losses](#)

FOOD SAFETY ISSUES AFTER A FLOOD

If your home is hit by flood waters and those waters come in contact with food, can any of that food be saved and eaten? Sandra Bastin, University of Kentucky extension food expert, gave the reason why foods touched by flood waters should not be eaten.

Radio Info: [Food Safety Issues After A Flood](#)

[ACTUALITY: The Food Safety Hazards Of Flood Waters](#)

(October 30)

SPACE GARDENING FOR SUSTAINABLE SPACE EXPLORATION

Research has been ongoing to find ways to feed space explorers by growing their own food in space. Peter Ling of Ohio State University explains his team's research, part of a broader study, of food production and sustainability in long range space exploration.

Radio Info: [Space Gardening For Sustainable Space Exploration](#)

[ACTUALITY: On Space Gardening Research](#)

NEW EFFORT UNLOCKS SECRETS OF THE SOIL

Drought mitigation is one of several benefits behind USDA's recent soil health initiative called "Unlock The Secrets Of The Soil". Mark Rose of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service explains the benefits of ag landowners conducting several conservation practices and programs to improve soil health.

Radio Info: [New Effort Unlocks Secrets Of The Soil](#)

[ACTUALITY: On Benefits Of Soil Health Effort](#)

(October 29)

HELPING OLDER ADULTS AND CHILDREN PREPARE FOR A DISASTER

There are certain demographics that are more vulnerable in disasters, and therefore need assistance in preparing for such an event. Gina Peek of Oklahoma State University Extension explains staples for individual disaster kits and how they can be altered to fit the needs of older adults and children.

Radio Info: [Helping Older Adults And Kids Prepare For A Disaster](#)

[ACTUALITY: On Disaster Kits For Older Adults And Kids](#)

**USEFUL FOOD SAFETY TIP FOR THE
FARM AND FIELD,
KEEP YOUR HANDS CLEAN**

There are ways farmers out in the field during harvest time can clean their hands and prevent bacteria transfer to their food.

Radio Info: [Food Safety Tip Out In The Farm Field - Keep Hands Clean](#)

ANCIENT FARMING TIES TO HALLOWEEN

Historians tell us there are ancient agricultural ties to our present day Halloween observance. Anne Effland, USDA historical expert, explaining where the word, Halloween, originates.

Radio Info: [Ancient Farming Ties To Halloween](#)
[ACTUALITY: The Origins Of The Word, Halloween](#)

For more agriculture news visit www.USDA.gov



[Read USDA's Latest Blog Posts](#)

**Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack's
WEEKLY RADIO ADDRESS**

[TV#43--Secy' Vilsack's Weekly Message Deals With Disaster Response](#)



[USDA Celebrates 150 Years](#)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

(Feature Line-Up Subject To Change Prior to Update On November 6, 2012)

AGRICULTURE USA CD # 45.12 – Ag producers nationwide will soon receive the latest series of questions and forms connected to the USDA Census of Agriculture. Rod Bain looks at why this is such an important tool, what it is, and what has changed and improved since the last Census in 2007, in this edition of "Agriculture USA".

CONSUMER TIME CD # 45.12 – Buying Beef And Other Meats Now For The Freezer Could Save Money, Tips To Store And Maintain Individual Disaster Kits, How To Make Healthier Low Cost Holiday Meals, Boosting The Nutrition In Food Aid Products, A Pizza Garden Is Used As A Teachable Food Moment.

AG UPDATE CD # 45.12 – Gearing Up For The 2012 Census Of Agriculture, A New Means To Destroy Disease Causing Bacteria, Expanding The Sorghum Growing Season And Area, Tree Nuts May Have Unexpected Health Benefits, Finding Genetic Markers To Keep Nematodes Away.

UPCOMING ON THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINE – November 6 - Crop Weather Report (WAOB). November 9 – Crop Production Reports (NASS) and World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (ERS – WAOB). November 12 – NO NEWSLINE (Federal Veterans Day Holiday Observance). **These are USDA reports we know about in advance. The USDA Radio Newsline carries many stories every day that are not listed in this lineup.**

USDA Radio Newsline, 202-720-6776, 5:00pm ET

or

Go to www.usda.gov, click on Newsroom at top of the page, scroll down on right side of page until you see Radio and TV.

Then click on Daily Radio News Service or Weekly Radio Feature Service.

For questions about USDA Radio's Features, fax name, station, and address to 202-690-2165.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

USDA Helps With Local Food Production

USDA is helping a community farm in New Mexico deal with drought and produce food for locals.

YouTube: [USDA Helps With Local Food Production](#)

Please email bob.ellison@usda.gov if you have problems or suggestions

Also, use this free ftp client if you have problems

<http://filezilla-project.org/download.php?type+client>

OFF MIKE



COASTAL NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTIES OK AFTER SANDY – Rhonda Garrison (Southern Farm Network – Raleigh, North Carolina sfntoday.com) said, "I've spoken with Extension agents in coastal North & South Carolina counties, and they're reporting little to no damage. Cotton is the big concern as it is fully open ready for harvest. Some of these counties were hard hit by Irene in August of 2011. It seems that their biggest concern is wheat that's been planted in just the last few days...that that's already up should be okay. The seed that's just been planted may be in trouble because it could just lay there and rot, especially if it doesn't warm up and dry out. We've not had that much rain, and the wind hasn't been excessive, and the good luck is that they didn't necessarily come together."



NAFB 69th ANNUAL CONVENTION RUNS NOVEMBER 7-9 – After Election Day the stage is set in Kansas City, Missouri where hundreds of farm broadcasters will converge for the National Association for Farm Broadcasting yearly meeting. No doubt Hurricane Sandy will be a focal point as agricultural movers and shakers address moving forward from the devastation of wind, rain and fire. Trade Talk will be on the agenda as well.

A tribute will be given to Dix Harper a farm broadcaster who recently passed. Harper, a true legend was an avid supporter of the NAFB Foundation and his family has designated the Foundation as one of the charitable organizations to which memorial contributions can be made.

Broadcasters if you have any humanitarian or community service events you'd like to share please forward to susan.carter@oc.usda.gov.
We love to hear about what you're doing and share it with others in the farm broadcaster family.

From all of us to all of you ... thank you for what you do

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