

United States Department of Agriculture

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
**TENNESSEE**

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**For immediate release**

**NRCS Announces Hurricane Helene Disaster Assistance Application Deadline**

**Deadline to apply is December 20**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn., November 21, 2024** – NRCS Tennessee has announced December 20 as the cutoff date for disaster assistance applications submitted for Fiscal Year 2025 funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. NRCS Tennessee will administer ACT NOW authority for EQIP to process eligible applications.

This application signup is limited to agricultural producers in the following counties: Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington. Additional designations may be made if warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

Applicable practices under this signup will be limited to the following practices: Access Control (472), Channel Bed Stabilization (584), Clearing and Snagging (326), Critical Area Planting (342), Fencing (382), Grade Stabilization Structure (410), Grassed Waterway (412), Lined Waterway or Outlet (468), Mulching (484), Obstruction Removal (500), Pasture and Hay Planting (512), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Stream Crossing (578), Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580), Tree Shrub Establishment (612), Tree Shrub Site Preparation (490), Woody Residue Treatment (384).

ACT NOW allows NRCS to immediately approve and obligate a ranked eligible application in a designated ranking pool when the application meets or exceeds a state-determined minimum ranking threshold score. This eliminates the previous need to wait for all applications to be reviewed and preapproved within a ranking pool.

NRCS accepts applications on a continual basis, and applications received after a cutoff date will automatically be considered during future funding cycles.

For more information about this announcement, please contact Garrett Morris, ASTC-Programs at [garrett.morris@usda.gov](mailto:garrett.morris@usda.gov) or contact the NRCS service office supporting your area of the state.

Please visit the NRCS Tennessee website [here](#).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America.

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