

WEATHERED STRONG

GEORGIA HURRICANE RELIEF FUND



A Collaborative Fundraising Effort Between Leading Ag Partners:

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Dickey Farms, Fort Valley State University Cooperative Extension, Georgia 4-H, Georgia 4-H Foundation, Georgia Agricultural Education, Georgia Agribusiness Council, Georgia Association of Conservation Districts, Georgia Cattlemen's Association, Georgia Citrus Association, Georgia Cotton Commission, Georgia Department of Agriculture, Georgia EMC, Georgia FFA, Georgia FFA Alumni, Georgia FFA Camps-Covington and Fort Valley, Georgia FFA Foundation, Georgia Farm Bureau, Georgia Federal-State Inspection Service, Georgia Forestry Association, Georgia Forestry Commission, Georgia Forestry Foundation, Georgia Foundation For Agriculture, Georgia Green Industry Association, Georgia Milk Producers, Georgia Peanut Commission, Georgia Pecan Growers Association, Georgia Poultry Federation, Georgia Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association, Georgia Wine Producers, Georgia Young Farmers Association, Lamar Pecan Co, Magnolia Loom, Stuckey's Corporation, Sunbelt Ag Expo, The Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, The Georgia Pecan Commission, University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension.

RISING AFTER THE STORM

Farming has always been about more than just raising crops or livestock. It's a lifelong dedication to the land, to family, and to community. This year, Hurricane Helene put that dedication to the test like never before. In just a few hours, the storm wiped out entire fields, toppled years of timber growth, and caused devastation that we're still struggling to comprehend. It wasn't just our fields that were affected—barns, equipment, and even our homes have been damaged or destroyed.

For Georgia's farmers, the impact of Hurricane Helene is not just financial; it's deeply personal. The work we do isn't measured only in dollars and cents—it's in the pride of cultivating the land, the sense of purpose in raising animals, and the satisfaction of feeding and clothing our nation. When that is lost, it isn't just a financial blow—it's a blow to our way of life. The storm didn't just destroy crops and buildings; it uprooted our plans, our dreams, and our sense of security.

But there's one thing that hasn't changed: our resolve. We are farmers, and while we may be weathered by this storm, we are still strong. We know that the only way to face a challenge like this is together—with the support of our neighbors, friends, and community.

That's why we are launching The Weathered But Strong: Hurricane Relief Fund.

This fund is about more than financial support—it's about hope. It's about helping farmers get back on their feet, rebuild their barns, replant their fields, and continue the work we all love.

Our goal is to raise \$1 million to provide direct assistance to farmers impacted by Hurricane Helene. EVERY SINGLE DOLLAR RAISED WILL SUPPORT THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED DEVASTATING LOSSES. These funds will fill the gaps not met by other forms of aid, helping to repair fencing, restore livestock, and get Georgia farmers back on their feet. We are committed to ensuring that 100% of your donations go to those in need.

We understand that recovery won't happen overnight. It will take time to restore the land and rebuild what's been lost. But we also know that farmers are some of the most resilient people out there. We've faced bad weather, tough markets, and countless other challenges. Through it all, we keep going. With your support, we will rebuild our farms, our homes, and our communities. We will keep working the land, caring for our animals, and providing food for our tables and yours.

I invite you to join us in this effort. Whether you are able to contribute financially or help us spread the word, every action makes a difference. We are stronger together, and with your help, we will come through this stronger than before.



“ We are farmers, and while we may be weathered by this storm, we are still strong. ”

TESTIMONIALS

Washington County Pecan Producer, Willis Hartley has approximately 2,100 trees on 180 acres, and lost approximately 75% of them. Hartley and his son, Jason, were four weeks from harvest.

"I saw the damage, you know, it's heartbreaking. I just sat down and cried. I had to work this long to accumulate this orchard, make it look like it did, , and then lose it. Yeah, it's terrible," Hartley said.

-GFB News Reporter, Jay Stone



"I got pretty bad damage to my grain facility. I've got some other infrastructure buildings messed up. I've got fertilizer tanks turned over. My assets in terms of my land, this will be a scar that we'll be able to see for a long time."

-Taylor Brett, Johnson County Farmer



"We are thankful we didn't have birds when the storm struck. While we do have our chicken houses insured, they were older houses. We've been told we'll receive about \$100,000 per house, but the cost to build a new chicken house is about \$500,000."

-Lori Carter, Appling County Poultry Producer



HURRICANE HELENE'S IMPACT ON AG IN GEORGIA

"This year, Hurricane Helene put that dedication to the test like never before. In just a few hours, the storm wiped out entire fields, toppled years of timber growth, and caused devastation that we're still struggling to comprehend. It wasn't just our fields that were affected—barns, equipment, and even our homes have been damaged or destroyed."

- GFB President Tom McCall

CROPS AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Significant damage was reported on cotton, peanuts, soybeans, corn, pecans, timber, and green industry infrastructure.

POULTRY SECTOR

223 poultry establishments impacted, including one facility losing 208,000 chickens due to generator failure. Poultry depopulation continues.



DAIRIES



14 dairies statewide left without power; \$10,500 of milk dumped on September 30, 2024 due to power failures.

FOOD BANKS

Valdosta and Augusta food banks unable to assess damage due to roadblocks; Savannah food bank with tree damage but no warehouse impact.



FARMERS MARKETS



Valdosta and Cordele State Farmers Markets reported extensive structural damage.

LIVESTOCK

Cattlemen across the state faced downed fences, requiring urgent water and fencing assistance.



MEAT INSPECTION AND ESTABLISHMENTS



Closures and power losses impacted multiple facilities; depopulation of poultry underway.

**All data subject to change due to updates on estimated impact.*

This is based on the Oct 3 Georgia Department of Agriculture ESF Situation Report

HOW TO HELP

The Weathered But Strong: Hurricane Relief Fund is now open for donations to support Georgia farmers impacted by Hurricane Helene. Your generosity will provide critical resources to help farmers recover from the devastation and rebuild their livelihoods.

Ways to Donate:

- **Donate Online:** Click below to visit our secure donation page, choose the amount you'd like to contribute, and complete your donation:

[**Donate Online Now**](#)

- **Donate by Check:** If you prefer to donate by check, please download the donation form below and send it along with your contribution to the provided address.

[**Download Donation Form**](#)

Tax-Deductible Contributions: Your contribution to the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture Hurricane Relief Fund is tax-deductible under IRS 170(b)(A)(VI) and 501(c)(3). Upon completing your donation, you will receive a confirmation email and a tax receipt for your records.

Thank You for Supporting Georgia Farmers: Every dollar raised goes directly to support our agricultural community in their time of need. Whether you are able to donate, share this cause, or simply keep Georgia's farmers in your thoughts, your support is invaluable.

Thank you for standing with Georgia's agriculture community during this challenging time.



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ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF:

\$1,000 \$500 \$100 \$50 Other _____

Make checks payable to Georgia Foundation for Agriculture with a note in the Memo line "Hurricane Relief Fund"

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

**All information above is required to receive a tax receipt.*

PAY ONLINE

Click the link below to submit your credit card information. Credit card processing fees apply.

www.SupportGeorgiaFarmers.org



Please return checks to:

Georgia Foundation for Agriculture
1620 Bass Road | Macon, GA 31210

Matching Gift Company:

Does your company match your donations?
Please remember to send your company's matching gift form with your contribution. The value of your gift could be doubled or tripled!

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GAFoundationAg.org

All gifts to the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture are tax deductible as allowed by law.

*Donations to the Weathered But Strong: Hurricane Relief Fund go Georgia Foundation for Agriculture and are tax-deductible under IRS 170(b)(A)(VI). GFA is a registered charity Secretary of State (Registered Charity Number: CH015635; EIN: 47-2035360).

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROCESS

Georgia producers impacted by Hurricane Helene can apply for financial assistance starting in November until December 31, 2024. To qualify, applicants must meet specific criteria, including being agricultural producers with losses directly caused by the hurricane, residing in designated disaster areas or adjacent counties, and holding a valid GATE card. Applications will be submitted online through the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture website, and eligibility will be overseen by the Directors of the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture Board. Funds will be distributed to help cover losses not met by other aid.

Eligibility Criteria for Hurricane Relief Financial Assistance

- *Losses Due to Hurricane Helene:* Applicants must be Georgia agricultural producers who have incurred agriculture-related losses or expenses as a direct result of Hurricane Helene.
- *Disaster Area Designation:* Applicants must reside in a county or contiguous to a county declared through disaster declaration. This designation is forthcoming as the estimated losses are determined.
- *GATE Card Requirement:* Applicants must hold a current GATE (Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption) card issued by the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

Financial Assistance Determination

- *Application Submission:* Applications must be submitted online through the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture website by December 31, 2024. Application link is forthcoming.
- *Approval Oversight:* Eligibility will be determined by the Directors of the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture Board, based on location and the percentage of loss incurred.
- *Funds Distribution:* 100% of donations collected will be distributed to farmers impacted by Hurricane Helene.

The Georgia Foundation for Agriculture will distribute funds to eligible farmers that have suffered agricultural losses, met Foundation prerequisites, have applied for assistance and have been screened by members of the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture Board. These funds are intended to fill existing gaps not being met by the other areas of assistance. Losses covered by the Foundation assistance may include but are not limited to fencing, crop and livestock.