



**The Vermont Farm Disaster Relief Fund
 The Vermont Community Foundation
 Three Court Street, P. O. Box 30
 Middlebury, VT 05753**

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture has partnered with the Vermont Community Foundation to create the Vermont Farm Disaster Relief Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to address critical needs of Vermont farms that sustained damage from Tropical Storm Irene, to help them continue or return to production.

TIMELINE OF GRANT ROUNDS

	Application Deadline*	Grant Decisions	Grant Checks Mailed
Round 1	September 19	September 23	September 30
Round 2	September 30	October 7	October 14

**application and supporting documentation must be received at the Foundation on this date*

Depending on resources available, additional grant rounds may be added.

GRANT AMOUNT

Grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to those farms that have applied and are eligible, as available funds allow.

ELIGIBILITY

A farm will be considered eligible if:

- it is located in Vermont,
- it is committed to remaining in business,
- it had gross annual sales of at least \$20,000 in calendar year 2010, *or* it is a small or start-up farm that can demonstrate its investment and potential for growth, and
- it has contacted the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

USES OF GRANTS:

Grants may be used to help replace infrastructure, seed, feed, livestock, supplies, and equipment lost as a result of Tropical Storm Irene, only to the extent those losses are not covered by insurance or can be covered by other sources of income. Grants may also be used to help pay outstanding bills a farmer may have such as farm mortgage costs, land lease payments, or animal feed bills. Grants **cannot** be used to help recover projected income from crops lost in the storm.

GRANT DECISIONS:

Grant decisions will be made in consultation with representatives from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, NOFA Vermont, Vermont Farm Bureau, Rural Vermont, Rutland Area Farm and Food Link, and University of Vermont Extension. Decisions will be made within one week of the application deadline and checks will be mailed within two weeks of the application deadline.

If you have any questions, please contact Philanthropic Advisor Ryan Torres at (802) 388-3355 ext. 289 or via email at rtorres@vermontcf.org

Vermont Farms Disaster Relief Fund Application

(If you need additional space to respond to the following questions you may write up to two additional pages and attach them to the application)

Name Name of Farm (if applicable)

Address

City State Zip Code

Phone Email: Website of Farm (if applicable)

Social Security Number or EIN if your farm is incorporated

Do you own and/or lease your land?

- 1) Please provide a brief description of your farm, including number of years in business, ownership and management structure, acreage, type of crops, number and type of animals produced, and primary markets sold to.

2) What were your gross annual sales in calendar year 2010? _____

3) If 2010 gross annual sales were less than \$20,000, please describe any recent investments or plans that were in place to increase sales from the farm.

4) Do you have employees? Please circle response: **YES** **NO**

4-a) If yes, how many employees do you have? Full time _____ Part time _____

5) Have you contacted your USDA Farm Service Agency representative and submitted your Agricultural Damage Assessment Form? Please circle response:

YES **NO**

If you answered no to Question 5, please explain why:

6) Briefly describe the losses incurred as a result of Tropical Storm Irene. Please include your estimated total monetary loss.

- 7) Please list the type(s) of insurance your farm has and your level of coverage. Please include a list of losses from Tropical Storm Irene that are entirely or partly covered by existing insurance.
- 8) Please list all available cash and non-cash assets that may be used to cover your losses.
- 9) Do you have a working relationship with a commercial bank and are you eligible for credit? Please circle response: **YES** **NO**
- 10) If you expect other sources of income, including income from a spouse not working on the farm, please list their sources and amount here.
- 11) If you anticipate being eligible for FEMA assistance, please list amount of estimated future assistance here.
- 12) Have you applied to other sources of funding? If so, please list those organizations here.

In addition to the written application, we require two attachments:

- 1) A copy of your **USDA Farm Service Agency Agricultural Damage Assessment Form** or itemized list of losses, and
- 2) A copy of your **2010 schedule F, financial statement, or other supporting documentation.**

If available, please include photos showing damage to the farm. We accept hard-copy photographs or a URL of images posted online using flickr, facebook, etc.

Please note that further supporting documentation may be asked during the application review process.

Please read and sign:

I attest that the information provided herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that information provided on this form may be used in aggregate form on future reports or presentations. Personal information and names of the applicants, spouses, and farms will be kept confidential unless permission is granted by the applicant.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Please send completed applications to:

Email	Mail	Fax
rtorres@vermontcf.org	Vermont Farms Disaster Relief Fund The Vermont Community Foundation P. O. Box 30 Middlebury, Vermont 05753	Ryan Torres – Vermont Farms Disaster Relief Fund (802) 388-3398
Required Attachments: please include as email attachments.	Required Attachments: please include hard copies along with application in your mailing.	Required Attachments: please include along with application in fax.

Additional Funding Resources for Farmers

- Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont has information for both producers and farmers, including the NOFA Vermont Farmer Emergency Fund offering grants and loans up to \$2,500. <http://nofavt.org/flood>.
- VEDA has allocated up to \$10 million in low-interest loans that will be made available to businesses and farms hurt by Tropical Storm Irene. <http://www.veda.org/>.
- Pete’s Greens and the Center for and Agricultural Economy, in response to the catastrophic flooding that has devastated farms throughout Vermont, has established an emergency loan program. This program will accept applications immediately for \$5,000 loans at zero interest to benefit Vermont farms that have been directly affected by the effects of Irene. <http://www.hardwickagriculture.org/>.