

**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 ROUND

	Application Deadline*	Grant Checks Mailed
Round 4	December 2	By December 31st

*application and supporting documentation must be received at the Foundation on this date. Depending on available resources, additional grant rounds may be added.

GRANT AMOUNT

Grants covering up to 20% of a farm’s total need 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
- it has contacted the Vermont Farm Service Agency (FSA) to report losses

USES OF GRANTS:

Grants may be used to help meet critical living needs by replacing 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, seeds and fertilizer, or animal feed bills. Grants cannot be used to help recover projected income from crops or livestock 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 and checks sent by the end of December.

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 Farm Disaster Relief Fund Application

(If you need additional space to respond to the following questions you may write or type 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

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 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 your farm incurred as a result of Tropical Storm Irene.

- List of lost crops and value, including vegetables, hay, corn, etc. Please specify if these crops were going to be used as feed or bedding on farm.

- List of lost livestock and value.

- List of damaged/destroyed equipment, infrastructure, fields, and cost to repair or replace. This includes any stream bank restoration and damages to your home. If available, please include official estimates and bills as attachments.

- Please list eligible expenses (not losses) your farm has incurred or will incur and is unable to cover as a result of Irene:

Type of Expense	Cost to you (\$)	Brief description
Replacement feed		
Replacement livestock		
Replacement plants		
Seeds, Fertilizer, supplies, etc.		
Repairs to fields		
Repairs to structures		
Mortgage, lease payments		
Other		
Total flood-related expenses		

7) Please list the type(s) of insurance, if any, your farm has and your level of coverage. Please include a list of losses from Tropical Storm Irene that were covered by your insurance and the amount you received or an estimate of what you will receive.

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) Were you eligible for FEMA assistance? If so, how much did you receive or how much do you expect to receive?

12) Have you received any assistance from other disaster relief funds, including the Center for an Agricultural Economy/Pete's Greens Fund, NOFA Fund, Intervale Fund, local fundraiser, or town or regional fund? If so, please list here:

Fund Name	Amount Received	Amount requested/expected but not received

13) If you were to receive a grant from the Vermont Farm Disaster Relief Fund, how do you expect to use the funds?

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

- 1) A copy of your **USDA Farm Service Agency Agricultural Damage Assessment Form** or an 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 will accept hard-copy photographs or a URL of images posted online using flickr, facebook, etc.

Please note that further supporting documentation may be requested 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:

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

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 \$5,000. <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/>.