



## Yancey County Center

### Special Issue

Contact Us:  
NC Cooperative  
Extension  
Yancey County Center  
828-682-6186

Our recent flooding events have made quite an impact on our area. In this special issue we are covering some very pertinent and timely information for our farmers and property owners that have been impacted by flooding. If you are a farmer and are trying to tackle issues related to the recent flooding events on your farm, don't forget that we are here as a resource to help!

Sincerely,

David Davis  
County Extension Director  
Yancey County

### Considerations Following Flood Damages to Farming Operations!

Many farmers in our area may have been impacted by flooding which took place on Tuesday, August 17th. If you have experienced damages on your farm as a result of flooding, here are a few things to do and keep in mind:

- 1. Keep detailed production records** of crops, crop conditions, and/or livestock numbers as of August 17th. Thoroughly document any losses. Take pictures of damage/losses with time stamps, or dates recorded in the picture. Also, don't forget to document farm losses if they are incurred later on as a result of the flooding.
- 2. REPORT damages and farm losses to the Farm Service Agency.** Reporting to FSA is not only necessary in most cases when disaster funds are appropriated, but reporting damages/losses to FSA helps with justification in requests for disaster relief/aid to cover farm losses.
- 3. Remember that there are a variety of resource agencies locally to help you through difficult losses.** In addition to NC Cooperative Extension of Yancey County and FSA, NC Department of Agriculture (NCDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and Yancey County Soil and Water Conservation are here to help. You are not alone!
- 4. In addition to direct crop or animal loss, make sure to record other damages resulting from flooding** such as damage to equipment, structures, fences, and land/property.



Farms impacted our area by flooding, like the one pictured, should document damages and production records as much as possible.

If you need further help with documenting damages, or should you have questions, please feel free to reach out to our office by calling 828-682-6186.

## Cleaning Up and Recovery on the Farm Following a Flood Event

Following the recent flooding in our area, it will be time for clean up efforts to begin. It is important to clean-up safely, and keep these few tips in mind as farmers impacted begin flood recovery efforts:



*Produce that has come into contact with flood waters should not be salvaged, but should be discarded.*

**Remember Food Safety!** If you have gardens, vegetable crop fields, fruit or any other harvestable product that is intended for human consumption, it should not be harvested for sale or consumed if the harvestable portion of the crop has come into contact with flood waters. Even though the harvestable product may look like it is ok, if it has come into contact with flood waters it could be contaminated. In addition to food borne pathogens that can make people sick, there are also other concerns of contamination from oil, chemicals, or other pollutants that were in the flood waters.

**Remember to protect yourself!** Following a flooding event, it is important to wear the proper personal protective equipment when completing clean up efforts. Gloves should be worn to protect hands from potential exposure to contaminated flood debris. Make sure to wear proper clothing to minimize exposure to bacteria, fungi, and other contaminants. Also, minimize the risk of receiving cuts during clean up efforts. As fields or pastures dry out, wear approved dust masks if protection from inhalation hazards is needed.

Watch out for debris, holes, washed out areas. Use as much caution as possible during the clean up efforts. Take extra effort to avoid falls, or injuries. Remember to utilize good lift technique (lift with your legs and not your back), and use proper equipment if needed to move heavy debris. If you do suffer cuts, or even the smallest of scratches, make sure to clean wounds thoroughly and cover properly before continuing in clean up efforts. Even the smallest scratches come with a much higher risk than normal of infection when cleaning up flood debris.

During clean up, it is important to take care of yourself both physically and emotionally. Remember to drink plenty of water, take breaks during clean up efforts, and rest when needed. Cleaning up after flooding events can become very emotional times due to loss that has been suffered. Don't be afraid to ask others for help. Talk to others as you work through the aftermath. Sometimes the most help comes simply from a listening ear. Always remember that you have friends, family, and neighbors that are very willing to help. Our local farming community, and our community in general are full of people who care. In particular, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Yancey County is here to help if needed.

### Farm Related Flood Recovery Resources:

**NC Cooperative Extension Service Yancey County Center: (828) 682-6186**

**Farm Service Agency (Covering Yancey County): (828) 682-0774**

**Yancey Soil and Water Conservation Service: (828) 682-2466**  
**Natural Resource Conservation Service**