

## How to obtain potential assistance in a disaster

Pre-disaster: If the farmer has critical life-saving/life-sustaining needs, the Farmer should contact their electrical power company to be put on the priority power restoration list. The Farmer should also contact their local Public Safety Agencies and/or County Office of Emergency Management to let them know about potential and/or critical needs in a disaster.

### When a disaster occurs, the FARMER contacts:

- **NY- USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)** to report crop damage/losses
  - **NY-FSA** creates STORM reports to initiate the request process for a USDA Secretarial disaster designation. A Secretarial disaster designation opens the door for FSA emergency programs. (See FSA Profile and Fact sheet for more information)
  
- **Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)** for technical assistance on agriculture safety, assessment, and recovery issues
  - **CCE** provides the information to the farmer (See CCE Profile sheet for more information)
  
- **Local Emergency Services/County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)** to request assistance and resources
  - \*\*No resources are guaranteed. There could be extenuating circumstances that could shift resources to areas of immediate life-saving need.
  - Request the mission, need, or what you are trying to accomplish, not a specific item. For example:
    - Request: Need to move milk off the farm but the roads are blocked with debris (Not I need the National Guard to come and remove trees)
      - The solutions could be: to give you and other milk haulers alternate routes that are clear; to have a road crew move the debris off the road; etc.
    - Request: Need to be able to milk 500 cows but the power is off due to a downed power pole
      - The solutions could be: obtain priority for an electrical crew to restore power; obtain a generator for the milk house; obtain people to milk the cows; etc.
    - Request: Need water for the livestock because the power is off due to a downed power pole
      - The solutions could be: obtain an electrical crew to restore power; obtain a generator for the well pump; obtain a water tanker to provide water; etc.
    - Request: 250 of my livestock have drowned on my property and some carcasses are floating in the river; I need help with disposal
      - The solutions could be: make this a priority for the debris management committee to identify resources needed; obtain a contractor to assist with removal and disposal; obtain approval by DEC to bury on-site, etc.
    - Request: My barns are full of mud and my grazing lands have been flooded with contaminated storm water and my livestock fences are down and the livestock have escaped their fenced in areas and are stranded on various hills

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- There are numerous solutions, some may be: The County Animal Response Team may coordinate assistance locally; County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) may forward some or all of the request to the State EOC for the Animal Protection Branch and other agencies to collaborate on recommendations and resources; the County and/or State EOCs request assistance from NGOs to assist in mud-out and fence construction; the County and/or State EOCs work on providing a clean water supply.
- **County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)** can obtain the resources from within the county, or if the resources are not available the County OEM can submit the resource request to the State Office of Emergency Management (SOEM) at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)
- **The State Emergency Operations Center** will forward the request to the agency/agencies in the SEOC that would best be able to fulfill the request
  - Typically, agriculture and livestock requests go to **NY Ag & Markets** (See NY Ag & Markets Profile sheet for more information)
    - For stranded livestock; coordination of feed; assisting the debris management committee on carcass removal; indication of the safety of grazing lands from contaminated flood waters; veterinary assistance; milk inspections; etc.
- **NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets** may coordinate resources and solutions through other State Functional Branches, State agencies, and approved Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) to assist with Mud-Outs of buildings; milking of cows; fence restoration; rounding up of animals; etc.
- If the State agencies are not able to fulfill the request, the SEOC will submit the request to the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** who will forward the request to the agency/agencies at the Regional Response Coordination Center or Joint Field Office that would best be able to fulfill the request
  - This might be with:
    - Emergency Support Function (ESF) 3 – Public Works and Engineering: The US Army Corp of Engineers for debris management/carcass disposal; power restoration/generators
    - **ESF11 Agriculture and Natural Resources:** USDA APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) for Veterinary technical assistance regarding livestock and for carcass disposal assistance; Plant Protection and Quarantine for plant pest quarantine assistance; Food Safety and Inspection Service for information on food safety regarding meat, poultry and processed egg products; other USDA agencies for other assistance; etc. (See USDA APHIS VS Profile sheet for more information)
    - ESF8 Public Health and Medical Services: for information on food safety.