



GEORGIA HURRICANE HELENE BLOCK GRANT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible?

Georgia producers and forest landowners in eligible counties who suffered losses due to Hurricane Helene that are not covered by another USDA program. These categories include (in part): infrastructure, poultry, beef cattle, dairy cattle, milk loss, dairy feed loss, pecans, blueberries, citrus, nursery, plasticulture and bare ground. For a map of eligible counties, click the "Map of Eligible Counties" link on agr.georgia.gov/hurricane-helene-block-grant.

How will producers demonstrate a loss?

Submit a Georgia Hurricane Helene Block Grant (HBG) application with all the required information and supporting documents. The Helene Block Grant Application Worksheet (www.agr.georgia.gov/hurricane-helene-block-grant) will provide a detailed list of questions and documents required on the application. Producers will also have the opportunity to submit supplemental documentation on the application site. This is for producers who have additional documents they believe may help Georgia Department of Agriculture assess their eligibility. Georgia Department of Agriculture also reserves the right to contact producers who submit a HBG application and request more information to support the producer's application.

When should producers submit an application?

Block Grant applications are not open at this time. The application period and other additional details will be provided pending USDA approval.

Are there payment limits?

Is there an adjusted gross income (AGI) requirement for eligibility?

There are no payment limitations or adjusted gross income requirements.

What happens after producers submit an application?

Once a producer submits a signed application, they will receive an email acknowledging that Georgia Department of Agriculture has received the application. The HBG team at Georgia Department of Agriculture will review all applications for completeness and eligibility. Producers will be contacted if additional information is needed.

At the conclusion of the enrollment period, each producer's eligible award will be calculated. If the amount of all applications exceeds the available funding, each applicant's payment will be pro-rated by an amount to keep funding within the limit.

Producers will then receive an email notifying them of the award amount. Producers will need to choose whether to accept the award or not.

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Are producers required to do anything after they accept their payments?

Yes, producers will be required to purchase two years of Federal Crop Insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage at a minimum 60 percent coverage level. They must purchase coverage for each commodity they both received assistance on and are eligible for Federal Crop Insurance or NAP. Producers can also purchase a Whole Farm Revenue Protection Plan through USDA Risk Management Agency to comply with the crop insurance requirement. Some losses, such as for timber, are not covered by crop insurance so producers do not need to purchase crop insurance.

Producers must also keep all production and financial records for three years after they receive assistance from HBG and provide necessary documentation to USDA or Georgia Department of Agriculture in the event of any compliance or audit process.

Failure to meet the crop insurance, recordkeeping, and other compliance requirements will result in the producer having to refund, in full, all funds they received. If a producer is also found to have submitted an application with incorrect, untruthful, or incomplete information, that producer will be required to refund all payments and may be subject to civil and/or criminal penalty.

Are legal entities, general partnerships, and joint ventures considered eligible producers?

Yes, persons, legal entities, interest holders in legal entities, general partnerships, and joint ventures are eligible producers.

What if I have more questions?

Please submit additional questions to hbg@agr.georgia.gov or visit www.agr.georgia.gov/hurricane-helene-block-grant