

# AERT

## Agriculture Emergency Response Team

### Helping Communities Recover After Disaster



#### What is an AERT?

- ...a team to help farming communities recover after disasters
- ...a team of volunteers that assist in five different tasks to help in the recovery effort
- ...a trained team of volunteers to quickly aid the farmer / farming community return to normal operations
- ...a team that is equipped and trained to handle basic tasks in assisting with the recovery effort

#### What tasks do volunteers complete?

- Field Debris removal
- Temporary Fence Repair
- Tarping of some structures
- Harvestability – Recovering crops if possible
- Chain Saw Crews – Small tree / small limb removal (select volunteers only)

#### Disaster Types

- ➔ **Wide spread Tornadoes**
- ➔ **Hurricanes**
- ➔ **Extreme Summer or Winter Storms**
- ➔ **Other Disasters that affect farming communities / operations**

#### How to get involved?



Please contact the NCDA&CS Emergency Programs AERT Project Manager  
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# How exactly do teams help?

By providing volunteers to assist with the five tasks:

## \* Field Debris Removal

Removing disaster strewn debris from fields so farmers can continue to operate. Field debris can cause planting or harvesting to cease until it is removed.



Field debris being removed after a storm

## \* Temporary Fence Repair

Temporarily mending fencing so that livestock and other animals can be maintained safely until further permanent repairs can be made.



Temporary Fencing by AERT Team

## \* Tarping

Some structures may need to be tarped until a more suitable method of cover can be constructed. Structures such as farm equipment, barns, horse stalls, etc.



Hurricane Floyd Roof Damage

## \* Harvestability

There are times when disasters take a major toll on crops and plant nurseries and the damage is irreparable; however, there are times when crops can be salvaged; such as up-righting plants and stalks in order to save the crop from total loss. This activity takes a lot of manpower, and is suited for an AERT team (or teams).



Corn crop damaged by storm

## \* Chain Saw Crews

There are times when access roads may be blocked due to downed trees; or when trees have broken fences or other are inhibiting the farmer from completing necessary operations. Select trained personnel can cut small trees and limbs and all AERT volunteers can help in the removal of debris once it has been cut.



Chain saw crews working after winter storm

## NC Farm Act of 2016

<http://ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2015/Bills/Senate/PDF/S770v8.pdf>

In 2016 the NC General Assembly passed the NC Farm Act of 2016. SECTION 2.(a) Chapter 106 of the General Statutes amending to add a new Article to read: Article 85. Agricultural Emergency Response Act and Article 1 of Chapter 166A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read: § 166A-19.77A. Agricultural Emergency Response Teams authorized. These amendments formally define the purpose, scope, liability, and funding of AERTs under NC law.



AERT Trailer with various equipment

