

**Cost Share Program Response to Hurricane Helene Damage
October 16, 2024**

The Division of Soil and Water Conservation is working with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to assess circumstances where existing cost share policies may impede or enable efficient response to the damage caused by Hurricane Helene. The division is recommending the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (Commission) consider the following items to respond quickly:

1. Approve a policy waiver to permit grazing or harvesting of crops on acres affected by Agriculture Cost Share Program contracts for conservation cover, cover crop and residue management as needed to supplement lost forage.
2. Approve a waiver to the [Prohibition of Post-Approval of Contracts](#) policy for best management practices funded through the Hurricane Helene funding codes back to the date of the storm, September 27, 2024.
3. Authorize the Division Director to approve additional policy waivers to respond to this disaster if needed between Commission meetings. Any additional policy waivers approved will be presented at the next Commission meeting.

These policy waiver recommendations shall be effective immediately and remain in effect through the end of the fiscal year unless the Commission takes action to rescind sooner.