



Addressing Natural Disasters through NRCS Financial Assistance Programs (EQIP and EWP) Hurricane Idalia Emergency Assistance

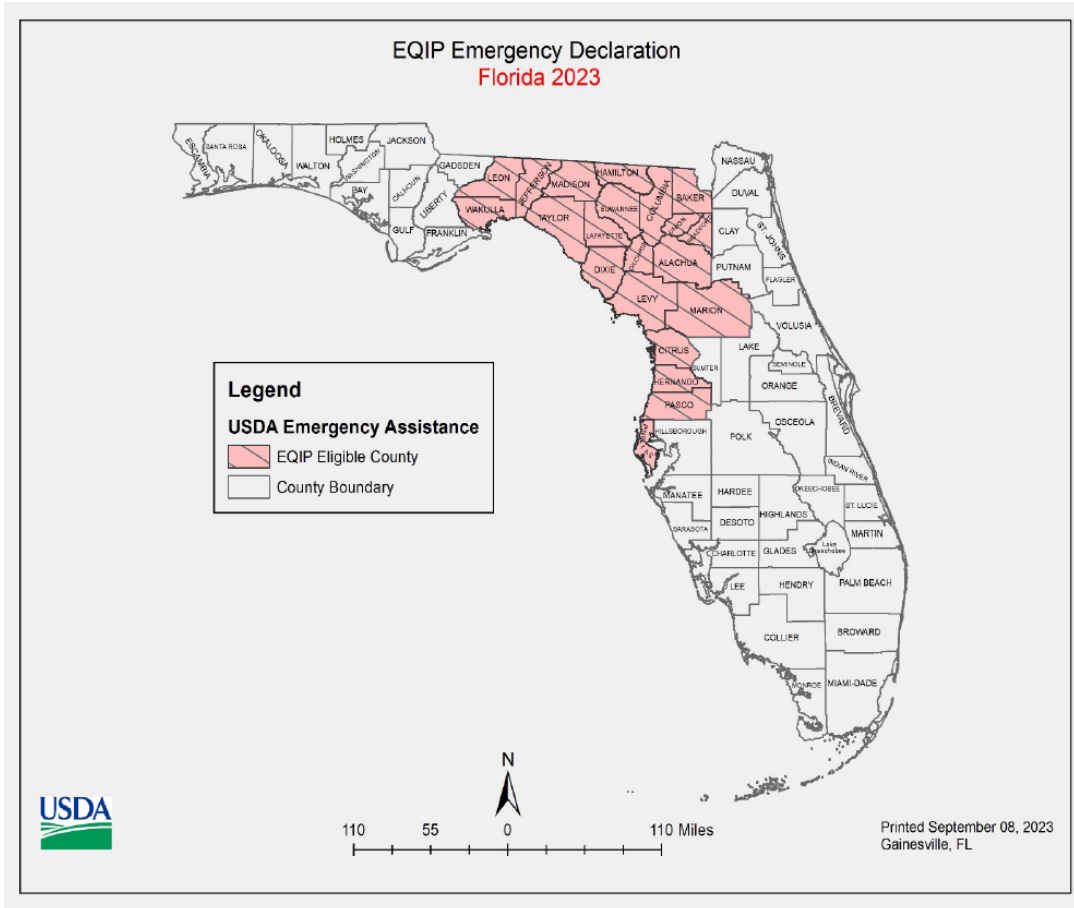
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

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Practices Offered for Financial Assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

| Practice Code | Conservation Practice Name |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 326 | Clearing and Snagging |
| 327 | Conservation Cover |
| 340 | Cover Crop |
| 342 | Critical Area Planting |
| 368 | Emergency Animal Mortality Management |
| 382 | Fence |
| 384 | Woody Residue Treatment |
| 484 | Mulching |
| 500 | Obstruction Removal |

General Eligibility



* Be located within the 21 identified EQIP emergency assistance counties:

Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrest, Hamilton, Hernando, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Madison, Marion, Pasco, Pinellas, Suwannee, Taylor, Union and Wakulla counties.

General EQIP Eligibility

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1. Applicant Eligibility

- Engaged in agricultural production or forestry management or have an interest in the agricultural or forestry operation associated with the land offered for enrollment.
- Be within the applicable EQIP payment limitations.

2. Land Eligibility

- Land on which agricultural commodities, livestock, or forest-related products are produced, and specifically includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, nonindustrial private forestland, other agricultural land such as environmentally sensitive areas, and agricultural land used to produce livestock.

2. Resource Concern Eligibility

- At least one natural resource concern must be identified and addressed with a conservation practice or activity.

General EQIP Eligibility (Continuation)

Application Requirements

Applicants will need to provide records and forms necessary to establish farm records and certifications outlined below.

- Farm records established or updated with the Farm Service Agency for the applicant and the land.
- Be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements.
- Meet the adjusted gross income and payment limitation provisions.
- Applicable documentation required for signature authority.
- Have control of land where “control” means possession of the land by ownership, lease, or other agreement.
- Written concurrence from the landowner to apply a structural or vegetative conservation practice.
- **Identified EQIP emergency assistance in 21 counties:** Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrest, Hamilton, Hernando, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Madison, Marion, Pasco, Pinellas, Suwannee, Taylor, Union and Wakulla counties.

Interested in more information?

Reach out to your Florida NRCS local service center at: [Florida-NRCS-Service-Center-Contact-List-Flyer-Rev12-14-2022.pdf](#) ([usda.gov](#))

Application Sign-up Deadline: November 17, 2023

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/florida/news/hurricane-idalia-emergency-assistance>



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)
Program



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Program Purpose

- Assist Sponsors (local and state governments) with implementation of emergency recovery measures to relieve imminent hazards to life or property caused by a natural disaster that creates a sudden impairment of a watershed.
- EWP is disaster recovery and **Not** disaster response.

Watershed Impairment

- Anything that impacts the drainage system, natural or man-made, to make it not function properly or safely.
- Examples include:
 - Debris and/or sediment in waterways
 - Erosion in or along the banks of waterways/channels
- Can't be due to lack of maintenance.



Disaster Events Eligible for EWP Assistance

- Fires
- Excessive rainfall
- Tornadoes
- Hurricanes (or tropical systems)



Eligible Sponsors

- Any legal subdivision of the State (such as a city, county, state agency, general improvement district, conservation district) or any Native American tribe or tribal organization
- Homeowner's associations are **not** eligible sponsors
- Private land is eligible but private landowners can't serve as sponsor

EWP Funding

- There is no annual appropriation. Funding is by Congressional Supplement.
- NRCS National Headquarters (NHQ) maintains an EWP fund pool.
- Standard cost share ratio for construction: 75% Federal and 25% Sponsor.
- If funding is not available at time of request, request goes on a waitlist until funding becomes available.
- Funding is for reimbursement and not a “Match”.



Eligible EWP Measures

- Must protect something of value such as a road, bridge, home, business, utility, or other infrastructure (protecting land itself is not eligible)
- Measures must be for runoff retardation or soil erosion prevention
- Debris removal for navigation purposes is not eligible
- Protection of a federal highway can't be main purpose of project
- Must be environmentally and economically defensible – value of items protected must exceed cost or repair



Typical EWP Measures

- Debris and sediment removal from waterways
- Stabilization of stream, canal, ditch, and channel banks
- Gully repair



Equal Opportunity

Non-Discrimination Policy

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To File an Employment Complaint

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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United States Department of Agriculture

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