

Application period opens July 1 for \$79.6 million hurricane disaster relief program for poultry, livestock, plasticulture and forestry producers
Program focuses on losses suffered from Hurricanes Florence, Michael and Dorian

RALEIGH – The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services received a \$79.6 million USDA block grant to assist producers and woodland owners in 90 counties who suffered losses in 2018-2019 from Hurricanes Florence, Michael and Dorian. The application period runs July 1 to Oct. 1.

This program will offer direct payments to eligible poultry/livestock and plasticulture producers. Assistance will only involve losses associated with these hurricanes that were not covered under other USDA disaster programs.

This program will also offer technical and financial assistance to woodland owners in the emergency-declared counties that were affected by these hurricanes. Comprehensive forest management plans will be offered to those landowners in order to assess the storm impacts to their woodlands and identify beneficial management recommendations.

“Eligibility requirements differ significantly between the agricultural and forestry categories of this block grant,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “I would encourage farmers and forest owners who think they may be eligible to check the online links for the agricultural applications or contact their local N.C. Forest Service County Ranger Office mid-July for the ‘Woodland Recovery’ component.” Anson Forest Service (704) 848-4705.
Poultry/livestock and plasticulture producers will need a current and completed IRS W9 form ready to scan into the application. Additionally, growers are encouraged to research and gather any evidence of poultry/swine structure damage and any damage evidence for plasticulture and greenhouses from those specific storms. They should be prepared to scan documents into the application for consideration of payment.

Details about the “Woodland Recovery” program will be available beginning mid-July. Contact a local N.C. Forest Service County Ranger’s office. (The Anson County Forest Service is 704-848-4705)

For more information, including links to the poultry/livestock and plasticulture applications, visit www.ncagr.gov/agdisasterprogram or call 1-919-707-3362.

Having a Problem with a Plant, Pest, or Pathogen?

Email your seasonal farm and garden question to aimee_colf@ncsu.edu along with a photo to reference and let us post it in this newsletter!

In the meantime, in July and August be on the lookout for emerging annual cicadas. Often called “dog-day cicadas” They are typically brown and green, with a bit of white. More often heard high in the trees than seen, these singing male insects add to the surround-sound of a stereotypical summer evening.

Damage is minimal. Adults may suck juices from tender twigs. Females insert eggs into small stems with their saw-like ovipositor. Twig dies and drops to the ground. Cicada nymphs hatch 6-7 weeks later, burrow into the soil and spend 2-10 years harmlessly feeding on various plant roots.

Annual cicadas prefer deciduous hardwoods (ash, elm, maples, oaks, beeches, persimmon, walnut, and peach causing no injury, and requiring no pesticide.



Photo credit: Jim Atkins, Sr.



Anson Farm and Garden

Horticulture and Forestry in Anson County, NC

SPOTLIGHT

Brown Patch on Fescue

Turf fungal ID



Brown patch lesion on tall fescue leaves and circular patches characteristic of disease. Photo credit: Kelvin Law (left) and NCSU Turffiles (right)

Brown patch is one of the most common fungal diseases of residential cool season lawns (bluegrasses, fescue, and ryegrass). Turf symptoms include circular patches that are brown, tan, or yellow. Circles may range in size from 6” or more in diameter. Affected leaves remain upright and have irregularly shaped tan foliar lesions with a dark brown border. This “smoke ring”, indicates active disease development and is only present when turfgrass leaves are damp or humidity is near 100%. Brown patch appears late spring/early summer as lows reach 60-70F and highs are between 70-90F. Coupled with frequent isolated showers and high humidity, prolonged leaf wetness favors disease development and spread. Other factors like poor soil drainage and air movement, shade/overcast skies, morning dew, over-watering, or watering in the late afternoon similarly increase disease severity and turf injury. Tips to prevent brown patch include watering only as needed in early morning to a depth of 4-6” or 1 inch of water per week. Mow to a height of 2.5 inches when the grass is dry to avoid spread to other areas. Provide good drainage and correct compacted areas with core aeration. Do not fertilize past March 15 in spring and contact your local Extension office to have soil tested for lime and fertilizer recommendations as pH below 6.0 and low soil potassium levels can increase severity. Look for fungicide active ingredients Azoxystrobin or Flutolanil to apply as a brown patch preventative starting as early as May. Liquid fungicides tend to be more effective than granular applications. Follow label directions for rate and application frequency.

July 2021

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Hurricane Disaster Relief Program

Anson Farm and Garden is a newsletter of Anson County Cooperative Extension.

It focuses on 3 main topics: residential horticulture, land use/ownership, and small farm management. Newsletter frequency is every other month.

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ABOUT N.C. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

North Carolina Cooperative Extension is a strategic partnership of NC State Extension, The Cooperative Extension Program at N.C. A&T State University, USDA-NIFA, and 101 local governments statewide. Extension professionals in all 100 counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee translate research-based education from our state’s land-grant universities, NC State and N.C. A&T, into everyday solutions. Extension specializes in agriculture, youth, communities, food, health and the environment by responding to local needs.

Feature Story

Pond Management: Grass Carp

Recent Agricultural News

PPE Supplies Distributed to Agricultural Workers in Anson Co.

A need was identified to address vulnerable populations within Anson's agricultural community to lessen risk of COVID-19 transmission. Extension entered a partnership with NC Agromedicine Institute and NCDHHS to make personal protective equipment and related supplies available specifically to farm workers due to the high demand of PPE supplies nation-wide. Between May-June 2021, Anson extension ordered 2,497 items at the request of 8 area farms. Anson's shipment included hand sanitizer, thermometers, Tyvek suits, nitrile gloves, cloth and disposable masks, N95 masks, and respirator mask filters. Producers positively impacted included cut flower, produce, row crop, livestock, hay producers, industrial hemp, and fruit and nut farms. These supplies had a retail value of \$2,800 but were acquired for the significantly discounted price of \$652 thanks to the collaboration with our partners and neighboring South Central agents to help transport supplies.



Biosecurity PPE supplies being worn at an Anson Co. poultry farm. Photo credit: Aimee Colf

One producer commented, "We have been looking for N95 masks for over 6 months and could not find any to keep us in compliance with the pesticide label. It's great that you contacted us to ask." A second farmer who ordered face mask filters had been unable to change his face mask filter in over a year for the same reason. A third producer was thankful for her supplies because her family regularly sells at the State Farmers Market and greets a number of buyers. Now, she feels more comfortable with a ready supply of gloves and masks to handle greens. Reaching out to producers did more than address social distancing, it also raised the issue to supplies for pesticide applicators. Even as COVID-19 continues to subside, the threat of the new delta variant remains a looming concern. Anson Extension will continue to check with farmworkers for PPE needs as long as supply remains an issue.

PPE Supplies

NC Department of Health and Human Services and NC Agromedicine Institute continues to partner with NC Cooperative Extension offices to offer personal protective equipment to agricultural workers. If your farm needs PPE such as cloth face coverings, hand sanitizer, soap, N95 masks, nitrile gloves, hair covers, Tyvek coveralls, or other supply needs please contact Anson Extension office or Horticulture agent, aimee_colf@ncsu.edu. Orders are being taken for July and will be offered monthly for as long as a need exists. Items are offered at an affordable price to ensure the farming community has access despite supply shortages.



Photo credit: Philipp Salveter, Flickr.com

Anson Cooperative Extension is special in that it is a county/state agency that provides education and technical assistance to Anson County residents in a variety of areas including production agriculture, community development, and 4-H youth programs. Pond management is an example of our natural resource objectives. Common pond concerns include weed ID, management options, and the possibility of using grass carp for long term weed control.

Aquatic plants, in fact, serve an important function in fishing ponds. Algae and other pond plants produce dissolved oxygen during the day. Plants stabilize the pond bottom, provide fish breeding/nesting sites, and provide structural habitat for fish, waterfowl, and small mammals. Interestingly, most ponds without vegetation cannot sustain animal populations, so some vegetation is desirable.

Successful pond weed control measures may be chemical, mechanical, cultural, or biological. Below, read about two submersed aquatic plants commonly found in Anson County and favored by grass carp.

Common Aquatic Weeds Preferred By Grass Carp

Submersed plants are defined as growing beneath the water surface. They may be free floating or rooted to the bottom. Flowers are produced above water and may be supported by specialized floating structures. Some species produce emergent floral spikes covered with bracts that resemble leaves. Submersed plants have limited structural tissue and rely on the water's buoyancy for support. Filamentous algae are considered submersed but are not eaten by grass carp.

Bladderwort: Native free-floating carnivorous plant with weak filament-like stems. Look for small, rounded bladders that trap tiny invertebrates. Flowers are supported above water on leafless stalks supported by a floating whorl resembling a wagon-wheel. Flower color is yellow. Bladderwort is often found in shallow, clear, and protected freshwater. Bladderwort somewhat resembles coontail but coontail lacks bladders and is more rigid.



Grass Carp or White Amur
Photo credit: Ronald Ort, Flickr.com

Photo credit: Ronald Ort, Flickr.com

Coontail: Native, rootless perennial with one main, highly branched stem. Leaves are whorled around the stem from a central axis. Leaves are stiff and give the appearance of a raccoon's tail. Coontail prefers shallow, clear water, 2-10' deep and may be found in dense colonies. Coontail remains rigid when broken. There is no flower.



(Left) Submersed bladderwort stem and round bladders to trap invertebrates.

Photo credit: Tony Yang, Flickr.com

(Right) Submersed coontail leaves are 1-3 cm long and serrated on one side of leaf margin.

Photo credit: Tony Yang, Flickr.com

