

Emergency Assistance for Landowners with Storm-Damaged Timber

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting applications for assistance through the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) now for forest landowners who suffered timber damage during recent wind events. Although funding is not yet approved, landowners need to begin the process now by contacting their county FSA office.

To be eligible for assistance, landowners must sign up with FSA **before starting timber salvage** and obtain advice from a registered forester who will confirm the damage and need for reforestation. Landowners are strongly encouraged to obtain registered forester advice before beginning salvage of damaged timber or planning reforestation activities to increase the likelihood of receiving funding assistance and having a successful salvage and replanting process. Documentation such as pictures of damage and written recommendations from a registered forester are highly recommended as well.

Landowners are encouraged to sign up with FSA as soon as feasible, as there will be a limited period of eligibility and funding. The Farm Service Agency Emergency Forest Restoration Program web page has more information about the program and eligibility:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-forest-restoration/index> .

Some landowners may qualify for additional programs such as the Emergency Conservation Program which can provide additional help with recovery from storm damage (<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/emergency-conservation/index>)

To expedite the signup process, landowners not already enrolled with FSA should bring a property deed, plat map, and forest management plan to their local FSA office if possible.

Farm Service Agency local offices can be located by selecting your county on the map at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=sc&agency=fsa> or by calling the state FSA office at 803-806-3820.

Steps for Landowners:

1. Contact the local SC Forestry Commission office or a registered forester (which could be your consulting forester if you have one) to assess damage and determine forest management options.
2. Before beginning salvage or reforestation, contact the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to determine eligibility for the Emergency Forest Restoration Program. **Important** – if you have damaged forest land enrolled in the CRP program or if you wish to participate in EFRP, you **must** contact FSA before conducting any timber salvage harvesting!
3. Use qualified forestry professionals to carry out any needed forestry work on your property.