

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Severe Weather and Flooding Loss & Damage Survey Results

Aug 31, 2023

Survey Overview

From July 7 - 18, 2023, Vermont experienced historic and catastrophic severe weather and flooding. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets created a survey for farms, agricultural businesses, and service and non-profit organizations to understand the overall impact of this natural disaster.

The survey accepted responses from the VT agricultural community from July 30 - August 28, 2023. The survey was open to businesses, organizations, or individuals who raise animals and/or grow feed or crops for anyone beyond their immediate family.

It is important to note that Vermont has had an extraordinarily difficult year of weather outside of the July flooding, including a widespread freeze event in May. This survey does not capture damages from the freeze, and respondents were specifically asked to focus survey responses on damages from the severe weather and flooding.

The survey covers a variety of important questions for the agricultural community and was created by consulting with Agency experts and external partners. The end result is a survey that captures the enormity of loss suffered by producers across the state. The results suggest that farmers across all categories suffered greatly, are mostly non-insured, cash-poor, and in desperate need of assistance heading into the fall and winter.

For questions on the data contained in this report, please contact

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Responses and Demographic Data

The survey received **264** responses.

Damages were reported in every county, with estimated total losses of **\$16,063,054**. **27,318** acres were impacted, with the average respondent having 103 impacted acres and \$61,000 in damages.

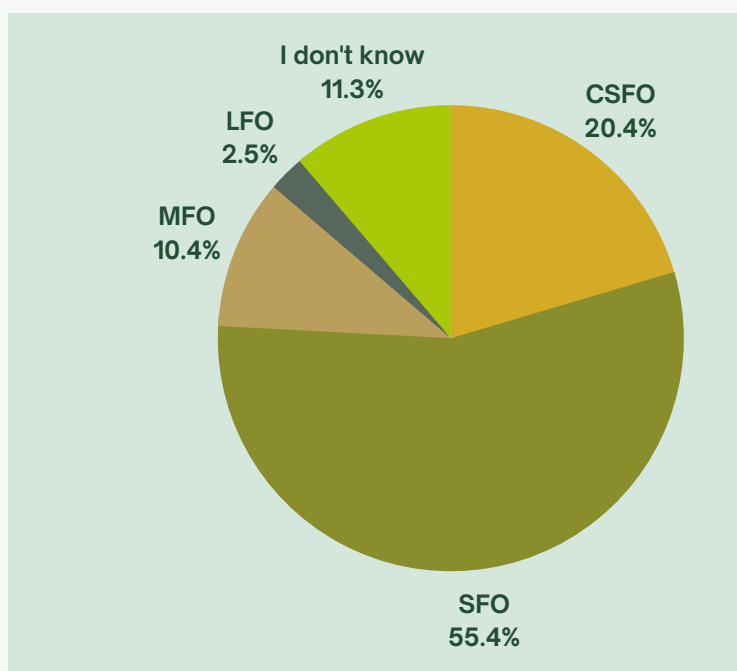
25%

of respondents said their operation is certified organic.

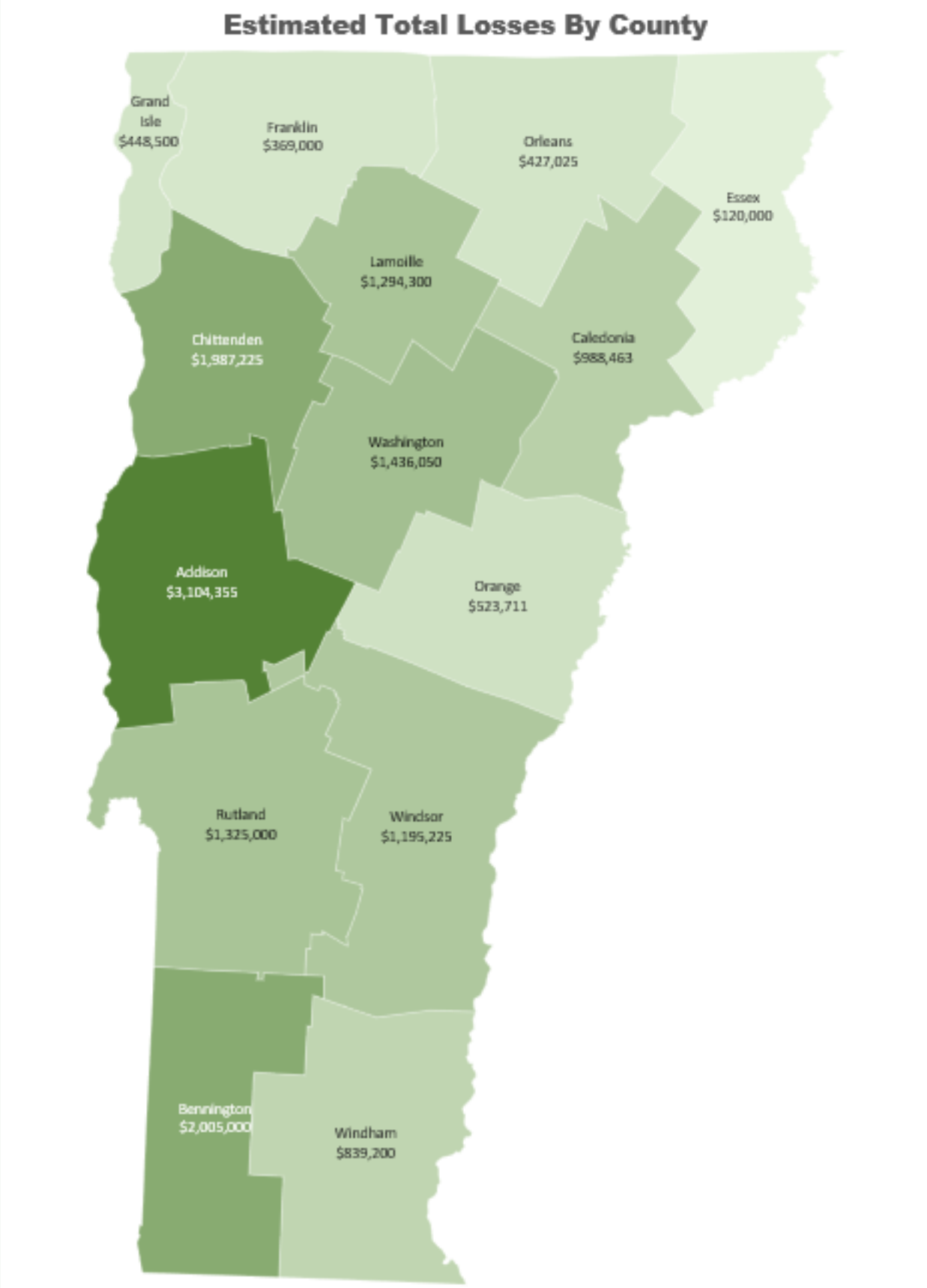
Type of Operation

Hay or feed crops	124
Livestock	99
Vegetables	84
Dairy (fluid milk)	52
Berries	51
Maple Products	41
Eggs	47
Other (all other responses)	192

Farm Size Classification



Responses and Demographic Data



Breakdown of Damages

The most common damages, the ones reported most often, were **damages to soil or land, loss of crops meant for feed, and loss of crops meant for wholesale or retail markets.** Respondents suffered a myriad of other damages, including damage to infrastructure, equipment, market access, and more.

➤ Most Significant Damages

34% of respondents said that loss of crops meant for feed was the type of damage most significant to their operation. This is followed by loss of crops meant for resale or wholesale markets (29%), and damage to soils or land (16%)

➤ Percentage of Annual Income Lost From Damages

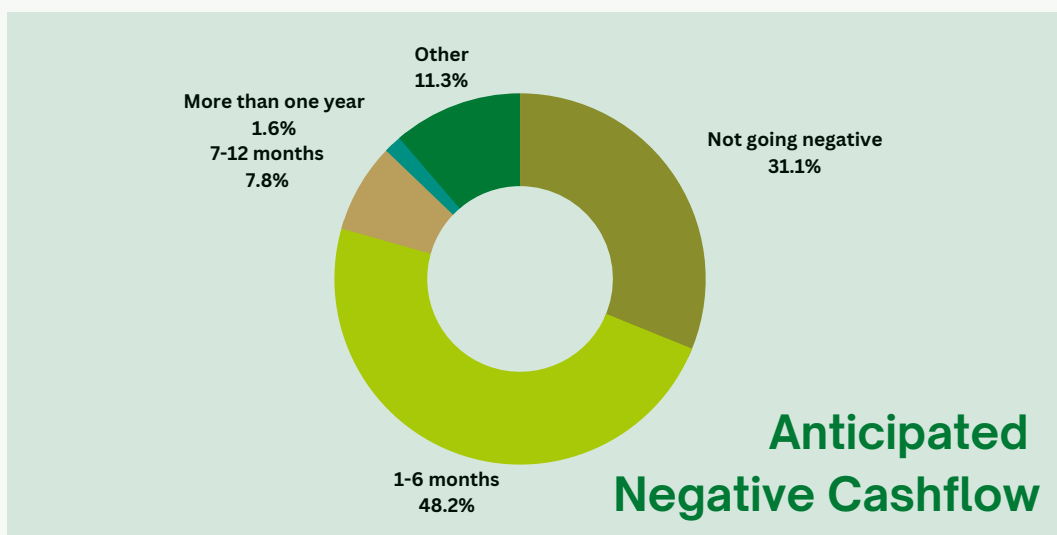
On average, respondents have lost 28.2% of their annual income as a direct result of the severe weather and flooding. Responses ranged from 1% of income lost up to 225% (for producers who lost multiple years of crops, e.g. christmas trees).

➤ Feed Shortages and Problems With Feed Quality

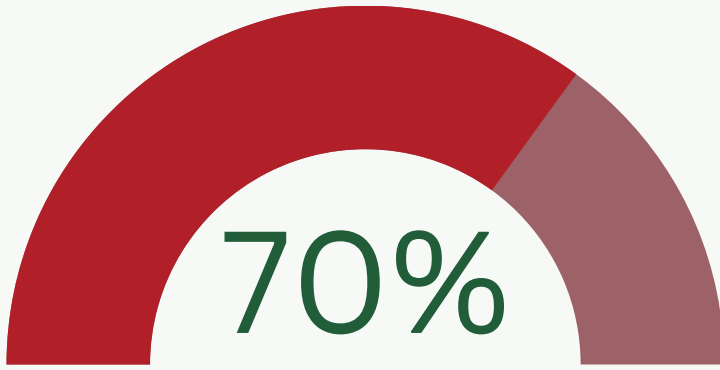
53% of respondents said they anticipate a feed shortage or problems with feed quality as a result of the severe weather and flooding.

➤ Immediate Need and Negative Cash Flow

57.6% of respondents said their cash flow will go negative in the next year as a result of the severe weather and flooding.



Uninsured Producers



of respondents have no crop or livestock insurance

One of the most important metrics measured by the survey is the percentage of respondents without crop or livestock insurance. A huge majority, 70%, have no crop or livestock insurance.



of respondents are enrolled in the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Of those who are insured, an almost equal number are insured through the USDA or private insurance.

