

Farm & Forestry Operations Security Special Fund



Extreme weather conditions are here to stay. Farmers and loggers need state-based, rapidly available financial support to recover.

Please Appropriate \$15.6 million to the Farm & Forestry Operations Security Special Fund for FY27.

Over the last three years, Vermont's Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets have gathered some important indicators of the economic impacts on farms and forestry operations, finding \$94.01 million of loss over the last three years. These costs were reported to the state in survey responses or as part of applications for BEGAP funding.

Once enacted, the Farm & Forestry Operations Security Special Fund (S.60) is intended to receive an annual appropriation equal to half of the average documented farm losses due to eligible weather conditions from the previous three years. For the initial appropriation, **farm advocates and experts are recommending \$15.6 million, based on the data available.**

The existence of the Farm & Forestry Operations Security Special Fund will also help the state better track the impacts of extreme weather on farms and forestry operations over time, providing more accurate data for future appropriations.



Investing in the success of our working lands businesses supports rural livelihoods, strengthens food security, and ensures strong local economies.

2023

WEATHER EVENT	DOCUMENTED FARM OR FORESTRY LOSSES	SOURCE
Late spring freeze (farms)	\$10 million	Vermont Agriculture Recovery Task Force Extreme Weather Impact & Recovery Report
Summer flood (farms)	\$44.7 million	Vermont Agriculture Recovery Task Force Extreme Weather Impact & Recovery Report
Summer flood (forestry operations)	\$2.8 million	Forest Economy Loss and Damage Survey, 2023
TOTAL: \$57.5 MILLION		

2024

WEATHER EVENT	DOCUMENTED FARM OR FORESTRY LOSSES	SOURCE
Summer flood (farms)	\$13.5 million	BEGAP applications, reported by Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets (VAAFAM)
Summer flood (forestry operations)	\$5 million	Forest Economy Loss and Damage Survey, 2024
TOTAL: \$18.5 MILLION		

2025

WEATHER EVENT	DOCUMENTED FARM OR FORESTRY LOSSES	SOURCE
Summer/fall drought (farms)	\$18.01 million	Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets (VAAFAM) Drought Impact Dashboard
TOTAL: \$18.01 MILLION		

To learn more about the Farm Security Fund, contact Maddie Kempner, NOFA-VT's Policy & Organizing Director, at maddie@nofavt.org or 802-419-0072.