



## Hurricane Helene Response – Report 3

Oct. 3, 2024

### **Staff Deployed**

- 42 Forestry staff, 11 transports, 10 dozers, 1 UTV, 1 skid steer
- 8 Agricultural Crime Unit Officers
- 2 Animal Health staff
- 3 Emergency Services Coordinators

### **Highlights**

- Forestry crews continue to clear roads and rights-of-way in Carter, Johnson, Unicoi and Washington Counties. They opened at least four roads leading to residences yesterday.
- A 7-person Forestry team is preparing to hike into an isolated neighborhood to improve ground access.
- A Forestry UTV operator continues to generators for emergency communications in Carter County.
- TDA is maintaining a list of resources to address livestock needs and continuing to monitor county requests through TEMA.
- Agricultural Crime Unit Officers assisted the National Guard with delivery of livestock feed and supplies via airplane to communities in Unicoi and Carter Counties without ground access.
- Donation sites in Washington County continue to accept and distribute livestock and small animal food, water, and supplies.
- Commodities staff are assisting in coordination of food and feeding sites for citizens and first responders in Carter, Cocke, Greene, Unicoi, and Washington Counties.
- TAEP annual enrollment is currently underway. However, staff are working to accommodate affected farmers in Carter, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington Counties\* and will allow a second TAEP application period Dec. 2-6 for applicants who live in those counties.  
*(\*counties align with Governor Lee's request for disaster declarations and public assistance)*

### **How To Help**

Primary needs are dog food, cat food, cat litter, sweet feed, cattle feed, goat feed, swine feed, rabbit feed, chicken feed, crack corn, square bales of timothy or alfalfa hay, 5-gallon buckets, and water troughs. Donations of supplies are being accepted at the following locations:

*UT Knoxville Vet School*  
Brehm Animal Science Arena  
2506 River Drive | Knoxville, TN 37996  
Thursday from 5-7 p.m. and Friday from 2-6 p.m.

*Crossroads Christian Church\**  
1300 Suncrest Drive | Gray, TN 37615  
8 a.m. – 9 a.m. daily

*Embreeville Fire Department*  
4061 Hwy 81 S | Erwin, TN 37650  
Noon – 4:30 p.m. through Sunday

*South Central Elementary School\**  
2955 TN-107 | Chuckey, TN 37641  
Noon – 4:30 p.m. through Sunday

*Cocke County Fair Grounds*  
213 Fairgrounds Circle | Newport, TN 37821  
9 a.m. - noon Friday

#### **HAY ONLY / PLEASE CALL FIRST**

*Appalachian Fair Grounds*  
Phil Booher (423) 477-3211 / (423) 341-2381  
100 Lakeview St. | Gray, TN 37615

*\*Larger deliveries of hay and/or feed should be directed to the Crossroads and South Central locations.*

For additional donation and volunteer information, visit [www.tn.gov/tema/updates/hurricane-helene.html](http://www.tn.gov/tema/updates/hurricane-helene.html) and click on "Donation Information."

#### **Guidance**

People who need **immediate resources or assistance** should contact their local Emergency Management Agency: [www.tn.gov/tema/prepare/regional-ema-contacts.html](http://www.tn.gov/tema/prepare/regional-ema-contacts.html).

Farmers who need **recovery resources** should work through USDA: [www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/hurricane](http://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/hurricane).

The **Crisis Clean-Up Hotline (844) 965-1386** has been established for survivors to access free assistance with clean-up efforts.

If you or a loved one needs someone to talk to, there is a national **Disaster Distress**

**Helpline (800) 985-5990.** It's available 24/7 to all U.S. residents who are experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters. Learn more on their [website](#).

**Retail Food Stores** – See [Restaurants and Grocers Reopening After Hurricanes and Flooding](#) for guidance. Additionally, if your store is without water, it's essential to activate your emergency procedures immediately. If you cannot access potable water, all food preparation must stop. Only prepackaged foods can be sold during this time. Your commitment to food safety ensures the well-being of your customers. If you have additional questions, please call (615) 837-5193.

**Produce Growers** – See [Guide to Assess Flood-Affected Crops](#) and [Food Safety for Flooded Farms](#) for guidance. If you have additional questions, please email [produce.safety@tn.gov](mailto:produce.safety@tn.gov) or call (615) 837-5193.

We continue to share information and resources on our website:  
[www.tn.gov/agriculture/topic/emergency-response---resources.html](http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/topic/emergency-response---resources.html).