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### **Information for farmers about tax issues related to weather (e.g. Hurricane Irene) losses**

The recent harsh weather from Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene that has affected many parts of the Eastern United States has caused damage to roads, streams, buildings, piers, and agriculture.

In many cases the damage to farms, rural businesses and private homes qualifies as a casualty loss due to the unexpected damage. The Internal Revenue Code has provisions that often allow individuals and businesses affected by such sudden events to apply beneficial tax rules to their circumstances when they meet the qualifications of these rules.

A resource to help individuals and clients of professional tax preparers relative to casualty losses and other income tax issues is available from the website [RuralTax.org](http://RuralTax.org). On this website are fact sheets that explain how to apply the rules to businesses as well as personal casualties. These include an article on [involuntary conversion](#) and a related article on [weather related sales of livestock](#).

Cooperative Extension educators and professional tax preparers may be resources to access this information and provide income tax information relative to a potential casualty loss.

Individuals are encouraged to contact their income tax professional to determine how these rules may apply to their specific circumstances.