

Natural Resources Disaster Relief Assistance Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



1. What is NRDRAP?

The Natural Resources Disaster Relief Assistance Program (NRDRAP) is a Maine DACF program designed to help eligible producers recover from qualifying weather-related agricultural and timber losses.

2. Who may be eligible to apply?

Eligible applicants include agricultural and timber producers in the State of Maine that suffered an eligible loss as a direct result of a weather event in **2023 or 2024**. Eligible producers may include individuals, partnerships, corporations, LLCs, cooperatives, Tribes, or other qualifying legal entities, provided they meet program requirements.

3. What kinds of losses may be covered?

NRDRAP may provide assistance for eligible losses related to:

- **Crop losses**
- **Timber losses**
- **Infrastructure losses**
- **Bare-ground practices**
- **Aquaculture-related crop losses**, where applicable

Losses will not be eligible if they are already covered by an existing USDA disaster or other federal funding program.

4. What is the minimum loss requirement?

To be eligible, a producer must have a **minimum combined eligible loss of \$500** from qualifying weather events during 2023 and 2024.

5. When will the application open?

The application window is expected to open in **August 2026**. The application window will remain open for **12 weeks**, closing in November 2026. A second application window may also be opened depending on application volume and available funding.

6. How do I apply?

NRDRAP will use an **online application portal**. Applicants will need to register in the portal to submit their application and supporting documentation. **Paper applications will be available upon request.**

NRDRAP Support Staff will be available to help with application development and submission.

7. Can I submit more than one application?

No. Each applicant must submit **one application for all losses they wish to claim.**

8. What information will I need to register in the portal?

Applicants should be prepared to provide:

- Contact information
- Business or organization information
- Tax Identification Number
- Property information for losses, including **Parcel ID and address**

9. What documents will be required with my application?

Supporting documentation may include:

- Signed program application
- Signed attestations of citizenship, residency, and farming operation
- Photo ID for individual applicants
- Tax ID for business operations
- Certificate of Organization, if applicable
- Articles of Incorporation, if applicable
- FSA Farm Number, if applicable
- Parcel ID for requested parcels
- Proof of ownership
- Lease or legal instrument showing ownership or financial rights, if the applicant is not the owner
- Notarized Power of Attorney, if applying on behalf of an owner
- Tax documentation showing farming income
- Other documentation as determined by DACF

10. Do I need to own the land to be eligible?

Not always. It depends on the type of loss:

- For **infrastructure losses**, the producer must own the parcel where the eligible infrastructure loss is located.
- For **other losses**, applicants may be able to qualify based on ownership or financial interest, if applicable.

11. How much payment can I receive?

NRDRAP may pay **up to 95% of the total eligible loss** incurred; however, final payment will depend on total eligible loss claims received by DACF.

12. When can I expect to receive payment?

Application review will begin as applications are received. Payments are expected after the application window closes and the total loss pool is determined. Payments are anticipated to begin in **December 2026**.

13. What if I have questions while applying?

Applicants may submit questions or issues by **email or phone**. Maine DACF will also host informational sessions, webinars, producer roundtables, community events, and other materials to help producers prepare and apply.

14. What should I do now to get ready?

Start gathering documents now, including:

- Proof of ownership or lease information
- Parcel IDs
- Photos and records of losses
- Tax or business identification information
- FSA Farm Number, if applicable
- Any records showing weather-related losses from 2023 and/or 2024

Need help preparing?

Watch for NRDRAP outreach materials, informational sessions, and updates from Maine DACF as the August 2026 application window approaches.