Losses due to Hurricane Irene Reported by Commercial Vegetable Growers in Vermont as of October 1, 2011

Damage to infrastructure $25,000; crop loss $21,000; 18 acres affected: pumpkins squash sweet potatoes carrots beets onions sweet corn lettuce beans.

We lost 10 acres of pumpkins to the Otter Creek on our leased land. 150 tons ±. $60,000 worth of pumpkins (wholesale).

We have approximately 1 acre which was totally wiped out by the New Haven River. I estimate we lost $4,500 in crops (tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, melons, carrots).

Now that I can't harvest my fall roots (at least 80% of them) I expect our losses to be around $75K. (~7 acres)

Crops- $25,000 (conservative) - there is literally nothing left, that number is based on the projections we had for income for the rest of the year. We were pretty on target for our income goals this summer, so we believe that is an accurate estimate. Greenhouse- $3,000 (twisted pile of metal). Irrigation System- $3,000 (underneath the new river or gone) Rotary Cutter- $1200 (gone or buried somewhere we can't find) damaged tractor implements - unclear at this point, still digging them out- up to $8,000. Miscellaneous supplies and tools- probably about $2,000 flooded 1st floor of barn- damaged supplies could be in the ball park of $3,000 missing acreage- about 5 acres, valued at $100,000. The river has taken on a new course and is now tearing through our farm. Total? $145,200. Our dreams and spirit are also severely damaged and it's unclear how to repair those.

$3,500 from approx. 3 acres of mixed veg. Couldn't sell at Sundays market + other loses from crops I can't harvest, salad greens, lettuce, flowers and more. We had recently put down an acre of fall cover crop and a stream went through. Have to redo the land and cover crop and thought that piece was put to rest before snow. We're well and give thanks.

Here's a rough estimate of our losses: mesclun/arugula: $25,000, bell/hot pepper: $7,000, green beans: $2,000, melons: $1,000, field tomatoes: $1,000, fennel: $1,000, basil: $500, radish: $1000, scallions: $2000, parsley: $500. ($41,000 total) The underdeveloped fall root crops and cole crops which may or may not survive the submersion but can't be sold add another $40,000, and $4,000 for cole crops. These are the main crops ruined. All 13 acres we manage were flooded. (Later updated: $56,766 crop loss)
Here is our estimate of losses: 2 acres flooded. Peppers- $1000, Tomatoes -$900, Stringbeans- $300, Cucumbers- $450, Lettuce and baby geens- $900, Leeks $600. ($4,150 total.)

We are entirely underwater or at least parts were under water for at least 12 hours. We understand that we have lost all of our crops for the year due to contamination. Total value of all crops in the 7 acres field- $18,685.

The main flow of the White River went through our 9 acres of crops and hayfield. Hoophouse damage was limited $1,000. Crop damage I estimate at $40,000. $30K+ to repair holes in fields.

Our flooding is just cresting now I will try and take a look at things but I probably won't be able to get to my lower fields that flooded until tomorrow. Best guess at this point: Lettuce 500 cases - @ 24 = $12,000, Butternut - 250 cases @22 - $5,500, Acorn - 100 cases @ 22 = $2200, Zucchini - 100 cases @24 = $2400, Summer squash - 100 cases @24 = $2400, cucumbers 50 cases @ 24 = $1200, broccoli - 200 cases @ 28 = $5600. Total loss at this point $31,300. I may have some sweet corn loss but won't know until I can see if the flooding got up to the ears).

I will spare you that and just say that it is incredibly destroyed. Somehow the greenhouses still stand, a major plus. But, they were almost completely submerged. The water level on the wash station, greenhouses and fields was around 7 feet. The walk-in cooler is gone. The topography is quite different. My mind is a bit jumbled but I do know that I need to find out about how I can apply for assistance. There is much equipment lost through damage and going north and crops completely gone. (Later tallied up: $46,070 materials plus $25,500 crops lost for total of $71,570.)

Our leased farm was totally flooded out on Monday (upland fields sustained no losses - helps to be diversified this way.) Vegetable crops: 4.5 acres, $21,000 complete loss, plus $57,000 in fall roots that we are not allowed to harvest in October though they did survive the flooding. Livestock: $4,800 loss in dead pigs and lambs. Feed: $8500 in bales, plus standing forage also lost for grazing, unable to calculate value. Equipment: <$1000 to repair/refurbish 4 inundated tractors (we hope, we haven't finished draining/refilling fluids yet).

Estimated crop losses at our place of $187,000. Another $5,000 or so in facility and supplies damaged or lost. Total acreage affected by flooding: 46 of 46. Approximately $64,000 of the crop losses are the storage that survived but are not allowed to be sold: winter squash, sweet potatoes, and potatoes. (Final tally of loss $192,715.)

We are a small CSA farm and lost $5000 of deliverable produce and our spring garlic harvest when all three fields flooded with brook water. The greenhouse stands (amen!) but the footbridge connecting field 1 and 2 was taken out ($2000 loss). The walk-in cooler will need repairs ($1000 estimate). We are safe and our house was spared when the railroad tracks gave
way just below our biggest field giving the water a place to re-route. We will report this to our local FSA and do want to apply for a low-interest loan to re-work the soil, put in cover crops and damage repair as all our funds are fronted by the CSA members in the winter and spring.

Losses due to flooding from Hurricane Irene: Potatoes 1 acre $5000, Carrots 1/2 acre $5000, Parsnips 4 acres $50,000, Peppers 1 acre $5000, Pumpkins 1 acre $5000, Kale, Collards 6 acres $50,000, Winter Squash 6 acres $40,000, Sweet Corn 3 acres $10,000, Cabbage 9 acres $40,000, Pie Pumpkins 3 acres $15,000. Total 34.5 acres $220,000.

Vegetables that are gone or not saleable: $13,829. Add $25,000 for the fall carrots/ beans/ fall cole crops that may or may not recover but can’t be sold. Infrastructure, equipment, and livestock okay- were all moved on Saturday- Monday. Only lost three laying hens.

It was horrifying to be honest. The water was about 8 feet high in the farmstand and throughout the field near the farmstand. We had put everything up about 3-4 feet which is what the highest previous floods had been and clearly that was not high enough. We lost a lot of packaging. All the produce we had stored in our coolers and tomato room had to be disposed of. We had to close down the farmstand for 3 1/2 days and although we are back open now, we are still working on picking things little by little to fill the stand and manage the cleanup at the same time. The only silver lining for us is although we had 10 or so acres of great fields of summer, zucchini, cukes, herbs, etc. down in the farmstand field that we won’t be able to harvest anymore, we do have other fields with a lot of crops that still look great, if we can get them picked. All in all, the damage we sustained is probably somewhere in the $100,000 to $150,000 thousand range. (later estimate $250,000 including supplies and equipment.)

We had storm losses of the following: pears, plums, apples, berries 30 bushels @$60 a bushel $1800; only entrance to farm completely washed out @ $700 to repair temporarily; blueberry production area section washed out, repair $350; bridge connecting field to orchard swept off embankment and needs to be reattached $400; farm labor lifting up trees blown over in pots $300, farm labor smoothing out roadways and areas on farm with tractor $300; hi tunnel, partially down from march storm but one section repaired and in use, further damaged $1500; crew can’t get to farm cause roads are closed $220 extra driving time around debris and road closings; farm road washing thin and needs resurfacing on account of heaviest Irene rains/estimate received: $900. total so far: $6,470. (final tally $32,800)

I am looking at $100k+ losses of produce between fall and storage crops. I lost my irrigation pipe that was on a high spot on a wagon (4 acres worth of aluminum) and a pile of 20 bu. harvest bins. The silt deposits are feet deep over 40 acres and the campers and debris from up the road litter my farm. To top it off all the roads are closed and I can’t sell what I have in the cooler.
$101,650 lost in a wide variety of vegetables on 12 acres flooded.

I had damage to 3 fields along the river. One acre is totally gone, even though the field was buffered from the river by large trees, about half was in winter squash worth $2,000 the other half was my headland for turning. Another field of 2 acres had half of it lost, in mixed crops worth about $20,000. Another half-acre of cover cropped land is gone. Each acre lost is invaluable, as I gross $10,000 or more per acre year. I want to put big rocks all along the river, where I had that it seemed to work. Need funding for streambank restoration.

Lost 1 acre, estimated loss of $6,850.

We have lost 1 acre combined of summer squash, zucchini, picklers and slicers, total pounds 13,000lbs; 1/2 acre of slicing tomatoes, 6,000 lbs; 2 acres pie pumpkins, 80,000 lbs.; 10% of the winter squash field which is estimated at $4,500; and one greenhouse planted to salad greens,$15,000. The rest of the loss was ornamental, lots of mums! perennials, shrubs trees, and Christmas trees.

Our farmstand was completely flooded and we lost supplies plus $1,500 in mums, 300 potted fruit trees and thousands of perennials and shrubs, probably $75,000 total. My fields had about 5 acres flooded with $100,000 worth of vegetable crops in them. Good thing I had blueberries by some of the stream bank as they helped hold it.

We lost 3/4 field of sweet corn: value $2,000. Also summer squash and zucchini: $200.

The lower field by CT River all flooded – water was up to the 8 ft. high tomato stakes, winter squashes now covered in silt; some of upper field flooded including beautiful kale just ready to harvest. Five acres in all, about a $50,000 loss. This is first year on this rented land.

We plant 15 acres total and about 3 were flooded, mostly root crops. Value ~ $30,000.

Our losses were: 10 acres of mixed vegetables, value $53,550; greenhouse vegetables, value $850, field crops (small grains and hay) value $9,700.

Potato field of 3 and half acres is a loss due to flooding from Stevens Branch of Winooski River. Had good yield and was almost ready to dig. Would have been worth $30K to $35K per acre to my markets.

The Connecticut River flooded nine acres of our pumpkins which are almost a total loss, at 10 tons to the acre that’s $22,500. Also lost 3 acres winter squash for which I have a good market, for a loss of $10,000. Five acres of sweet corn flooded; at 200 bags to the acre. I can get $24 a bag so that’s sweet corn at $24,000. Total loss $56,500.
Parts of ten acres flooded I figure $20,000 to $23,000 loss of sweet corn, summer and winter squash, tomatoes, gourds. I have a 4 man team that’s been working to clear debris and logs, fill holes.

We had chest high water in our 9 acres of fields. The impact will be long term because of the perennial crops. Our plants are lost, but also future sales until plants can be replanted and come in to maturity again. We lost about an acre of strawberries or 15,000 plants, replacement value about $5000 for the plants and lost income for 2012 and 2013 is about $21,000 annually, total of about $42,000. Lost a half-acre of fall raspberries, cost about $4000 to re-establish and income lost until the three-year maturity date (2014) will be approximately $50,000. Blueberry season was coming to an end when the flood rendered approximately 2500 pounds of blueberries unsalable with a value of $10,000. Due to the flooding, 107 new blueberry plants were washed away; replacement cost will be $750. Table grapes lost and replacement cost of the vines will be $2000 plus lost 3-year income until maturity of $6000. Much of our packaging supplies ($800), irrigation ($500) and remay ($1100) was damaged.

Three acres of fields and high tunnels flooded: $30,000 loss.

$193,435 loss on 22 acres of mixed organic vegetables.

1.5 acres mixed vegetables estimated at $20,000 retail value lost to flooding.

Loss of vegetables $3600 2 acres affected plus $4500 erosion damage to greenhouse foundations.

75% of fall harvest (5 acres?) was washed away plus damage to farmstand and equipment total an estimated $37,000.

**Approximate total losses** $2,315,250 on 356 acres

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