



YOUTH, FAMILY, COMMUNITIES

When Disaster Strikes, Extension Strikes Back

When disaster strikes, land-grant universities respond to help protect our nation's families and mitigate losses. The **Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)** was established to reduce the impact of disasters through educational catalogs, courses, webinars and experiential exercises. Made possible with support of the **USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)**, EDEN's delegation of agricultural experts represents more than 75 disciplines at 77 state Extension programs across the country.

RECENT EFFORTS INCLUDE:

- **Texas** Extension agents spent nearly a year helping families and communities recover from Hurricane Harvey. Working with community partners, they helped families locate housing, food and necessities; clean-up, including work to remove mold; and rebuild.
- **Connecticut** Extension programs support commercial agriculture, communities and families in preparing for and recovering from disasters. Educators with diverse expertise—including animals and plants, agricultural economics, family finance, natural resources, food safety, CPR and youth—help people understand the importance of disaster preparedness and having a disaster plan in place.
- In **Georgia**, 4-H delivered the My Preparedness Initiative program training, an eight-week course to prepare youth for leadership in emergency preparedness and disaster management. The goal is to educate youths to respond to an emergency until more help arrives. Participants learn

about disaster preparedness, fire safety, utility control, medical operations including CPR training and light search and rescue. All participants take part in a disaster simulation and a comprehensive family and community service project. 4-H members in the state also helped with disaster relief efforts following Hurricane Michael.

- When more than 35 counties in Missouri were hit by four tornadoes and a major flood, **Missouri** Extension partnered with Emergency Human Services to provide support to residents and communities through Multiagency Resource Centers. More than 500 people were helped through each local center. Extension's Community Emergency Management Program helped establish 96 local and regional groups focused on long-term disaster recovery, which are able to work across the state to help when needed.

4-H RESPONDS TO NEIGHBORS IN NEED

The timing of Hurricane Michael couldn't have been worse. Farmers were at the beginning of harvest. Crops were ready

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to be harvested, but there wasn't enough time before the storm made landfall. Over just a few hours, crops were destroyed, infrastructure was wrecked and thousands of families were left with damaged homes and no electricity. Hurricane Michael caused \$3 billion in damage to **Georgia** in crop losses alone. In the aftermath of the storm, 4-H'ers across the state began collecting supplies for those in the affected area. Extension agents in storm-damaged counties provided information on what supplies were needed the most. In one

district alone, 4-H'ers collected 3,600 bottles of water, 240 rolls of paper towels, 360 rolls of toilet tissue, 30 packages of paper plates, 15 large boxes of cleaning supplies, 2,200 baby diapers, 450 packages of baby wipes, 20 boxes of canned food items, 25 boxes of individually wrapped food items and snacks, 13 boxes of personal hygiene products, 125 children's books and coloring books and 90 cans of pet food. The 4-H'ers made staggered deliveries across the region, keeping much-needed fresh supplies flowing into the area.

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The Land-Grant University System is a uniquely American institution, and has operated successfully for more than a century. The landgrantimpacts.org website documents and demonstrates the collective and individual impacts of the national system of joint teaching, research, and extension institutions.

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