Collaborating with AgriSafe to Better Serve Agricultural Producers After Natural Disasters and Extreme Weather Events

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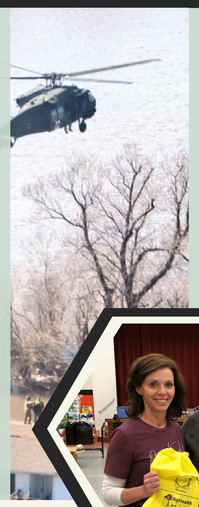
INTRODUCTION

AgriSafe Network is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to *Protecting the People Who Feed the World*. AgriSafe responds to emerging issues in agriculture, with a focus on public health.

A central strategy involves building partnerships with key stakeholders across the nation, such as the NIOSH Ag Centers, ag extension, and more.

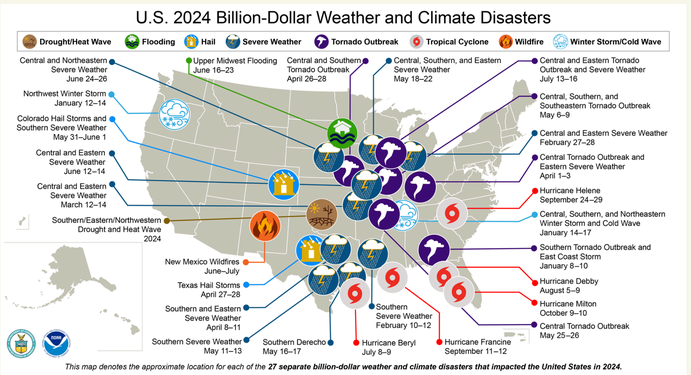
AgriSafe encourages disaster response professionals to seek support when addressing the public health needs of communities they serve.



BACKGROUND

Natural disasters have profound and far-reaching effects on farmers, ranchers, and their families—disrupting livelihoods and creating ripple effects that compromise agricultural production across the nation. **Despite these impacts, few resources are specifically tailored to meet the unique health and safety needs of agricultural communities.**

According to calculations from the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), it is estimated that the loss of crops from 2024 weather and climate disasters is $20.3 billion.[2] Additionally, the suicide rate among farmers is 3.5 times higher than that of the general population.[1]



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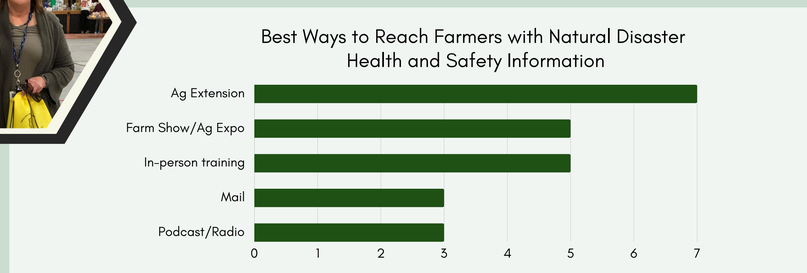
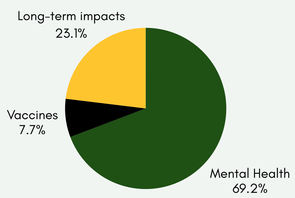
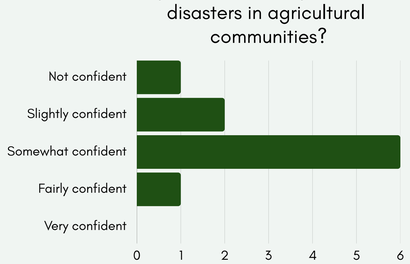
SEPTEMBER 2025 THINK TANK RESULTS

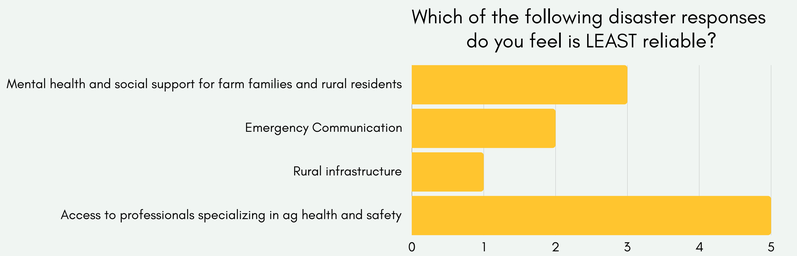
AgriSafe hosted a *Think Tank* on Agricultural Natural Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery, bringing together 60 participants. The findings reflect responses from those who identified as agricultural workers.

What organizations do you trust when preparing for or recovering from a natural disaster?









AgriSafe strengthens the capacity of agricultural communities to respond to natural disasters by:

- **Building strategic partnerships** with academia and organizations such as NRHA, 3M, Direct Relief, FEMA, and others.
- **Assembling a public health focused team** of experts who provide guidance during and after natural disasters.
- **Distributing personal protective equipment (PPE)** at recovery events, farm shows and agricultural expos.
- **Promoting health and safety resources** for both preparing for and responding to natural disasters.
- **Offering the AgriStress Helpline®**: a 24/7/365 suicide crisis line for the agriculture, forestry, logging, and fishing industries, with plans for national expansion.
- **Partnering with local, state, and national media to** distribute health information.
- **Designing public health and mental health trainings** unique to agricultural producers. Examples include topics such as:
  - Flood hazards
  - Wildfire hazards
  - Depopulation resiliency
  - Suicide prevention
  - Opioid overdose response
  - Avian influenza

- **Join AgriSafe's Natural Disaster Response Team Initiative!**

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AGRISAFE RESOURCES

Wildfire Health Threats Resource

Farm Flood Health Threats Resource

Farm Flood Health Risks Infographic Toolkit

Scan the QR code to access resources, webinars, and more!

agrisafe.org

References:

1. Eisenreich, R., & Pollari, C. (n.d.). Addressing Higher Risk of Suicide Among Farmers in Rural America [Policy brief]. National Rural Health Association. Retrieved from https://www.ruralhealth.us/getmedia/98f1009e-5418-4c06-910c-cdbb965cdb2e/NRHA-Policy-Brief-Increases-in-Suicide-Rates-Among-Farmers-in-Rural-America.pdf
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3. NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters (2025). https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/. DOI: 10.25921/stkw-7w73