

# Business and Land Based Issues Guidance

## Flood Debris in Fields and Waterways

Farmers can remove debris in the stream or river that is causing danger to life or property, if the removal is limited to flood deposited sediment, rocks, and woody debris, and/or human trash. Removal should be the minimum necessary to reestablish pre-flood channel dimensions not deeper or wider. Landowner must notify the town. No review is needed if sediment needs to be removed from the field. Farmers should be aware that if they stockpile the sediment in the federally mapped flood hazard areas or the ANR-mapped river corridor, this may require a permit. [Please see full document for more information.](#)

## Business Viability

The [Vermont Farm and Forest Viability Program](#) is a group of experienced business advisors who work with farm, food and forest businesses. We can support businesses that are recovering from flooding by offering assistance around short term business planning including financial analysis and identifying resources to assist with short term business management and financial decisions, as well as long term planning around business resiliency and planning. Please contact [calley@vhcb.org](mailto:calley@vhcb.org) or 802-828-3370 for more information and to be connected with a business advisor.

## Unemployment Insurance

The [Vermont Department of Labor](#) encourages workers affected by flooding to apply for Unemployment Benefits. Individuals who have lost their jobs, are unable to reach their place of employment, or cannot work due to the flood conditions are encouraged to apply for unemployment benefits. Vermonter's can initiate the application process by calling the Unemployment Claimant Assistance Center at 1-877- 214-3330. If a claim is filed and found ineligible, it may become eligible if federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits are authorized. The first step in the process is to file an initial claim through the regular unemployment insurance program.

## Flooding and Organic Certification

Flooded land, pastures, crops, and livestock feed on certified organic farms may require farm owners to follow additional measures to ensure and maintain their organic certification as they recover from flooding. [Frequently Asked Questions about Flooding and Organic Certification.](#) If you have additional questions regarding maintenance of organic certification, contact Vermont Organic Farmers LLC at 802-434-3821 or [info@vermontorganic.org](mailto:info@vermontorganic.org)

## Road Issues

For any road or culvert that need to be fixed immediately, there is not likely to be any state or federal financial support available. Additionally, roads, culverts and bridges are not covered under a farm's insurance policy. The Agency of Agriculture's [Best Management Practice \(BMP\) Program & Engineering Services](#) may be able to provide engineering assistance if the farm is unsure about how to repair their road or culvert. Please note that, while technical assistance is available, road or culvert repair is of low priority for BMP Program funding. Prepare for any possible future reimbursement programs via documentation. [Please see full document for more information.](#)