

## **Floyd and Agriculture** <sup>[1]</sup>

Along with the loss of homes, Hurricane Floyd created an agricultural nightmare. Unimaginable numbers of livestock from across Eastern North Carolina drowned in the flood - an estimated 30,000 hogs, 700,000 turkeys, and 2.4 million chickens. Officials were faced with the grim task of collecting the animal bodies and incinerating them 24 hours a day in 3 counties to avoid a threat to public health. Thousands of farms were affected when the flood waters erased years of careful landscaping and planning of fields in a matter of a few short days.

Tobacco crop losses were estimated at \$98 million; livestock losses \$8.5 million; total crop losses \$432 million and total agricultural losses of \$634 million for 44 of the 66 North Carolina counties that were declared disaster areas.

Since 1999, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services created an [Emergency Programs Division](#) <sup>[2]</sup>. The division works to make the state's agriculture less vulnerable to disaster, disease or terrorist attack, coordinating efforts with other state and local agencies on disaster planning and response.

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[ANCHOR: A North Carolina History Online Resource](#) <sup>[22]</sup>

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### **For Teachers:**

[Teaching Natural Disasters Lesson Plan](#) <sup>[23]</sup>, State Archives of North Carolina

### **Artifacts:**



[24]

Hogs fleeing the floodwaters escaped to the roof of this farm building.

3 January 2018

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