

Hurricane recovery efforts expand for farmers, animals and communities

Employees US-wide donate time and money to help those impacted by Hurricanes Florence and Michael.

Hurricane Florence devastated the Southeastern United States in September and only a few short weeks later, Hurricane Michael swept through the country adding to the already crippling damage. The severe flooding, structural damage and mass power outages have left residents struggling to get back on their feet.

In the weeks since the storms, Bayer has taken several steps to provide relief to the communities where we live and work. Bayer donated a total of \$500,000 to support key relief efforts for farmers through the Farm Bureaus in five impacted states. Consumer Health donated products to the non-profit organization Direct Relief. Bayer's Environmental Science (ES) business provided mosquito/fly control products to Pest Control companies in North and South Carolina, to battle pests in the wake of the hurricanes. On the Animal Health side, Bayer worked with non-profit partner Animal Search and Rescue (ASAR) to get products to those caring for displaced, injured or ill animals. Also, at the beginning of 2018, Bayer proactively donated \$100,000 to the American Red Cross to support disaster preparedness programs for communities impacted by natural disasters.

Helping Our Customers Recover



James Hunt Bookhart (right), Bayer District Sales Manager in South Carolina who is active in the South Carolina Farm Bureau, presents a check to South Carolina Farm Bureau President Harry Ott.

The \$500,000 donation is being directed -- \$100,000 each -- to the Farm Bureaus in North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia and Alabama, where farmers were particularly hard-hit by the storms

“We realized it was important to direct financial resources toward our impacted customers, and we’re grateful that the state Farm Bureaus showed leadership in establishing funds to help their members in these five states,” says Trey Davis, Director, State and Local Government Affairs, Southeast U.S.



The above photos are courtesy of the North Carolina and Georgia Farm Bureaus. A quote from the Georgia Farm Bureau website explains the devastation: “From row crops, vegetables and tree nuts to farm equipment, poultry houses, and buying points, Hurricane Michael wreaked havoc on the agriculture industry... Within 24 hours, some Georgia farmers lost entire crops.”

Flooding Brings Mosquito Issues



(Left to right): Joe Grippi, Kurt Vandock, and an N.C. mosquito abatement customer open DeltaGard to load it onto a plane for an aerial application. Ildem Bozkurt (second photo) on the plane before it took off to assess hurricane damage and make the DeltaGard application.

Ildem Bozkurt, Head of the ES Pest Management & Public Health Business, and Kurt Vandock, Head of ES Community Health, were invited by some North Carolina public mosquito abatement officials to join them on a flight to assess damage and to do an aerial application of DeltaGard, a Bayer mosquito-control product that received its aerial label earlier in 2018.

“The flooding and devastation were unbelievable,” Kurt says. “Mosquitoes can breed in a bottle cap’s worth of water, so seeing this level of flooding, we knew how severe the mosquito problem would soon be, and seeing so much livestock mortality, we knew there was also likely to be a large influx of flies to the area. The exponential increase in mosquito populations following flooding can potentially lead to widespread adverse public health implications, so controlling their populations is crucial.”

While the states were already spraying to head off the increase in mosquitoes and flies, Joe Grippi, ES Area Sales Manager who works with private Pest Control companies in North and South Carolina, knew that many of his customers’ facilities were flooded, making it difficult for them to serve their customers. So Joe reached out to Ray Daniels, Head of Marketing for Pest Management & Public Health, to find a way to help the impacted pest control companies get back on their feet.

“Joe and I worked with our distributors to identify Professional Pest Management companies in North and South Carolina to whom we could provide free bottles of Suspend SC, to help those businesses and their employees treat for mosquitoes around their homes and businesses, and in their communities,” Ray says. “So far we’ve shipped 418 bottles to 32 customers across Eastern North and South Carolina.”

Employees Giving Back

Individual employees also contributed in the wake of the hurricanes. Robyn Keiter, a veterinary technician with our Animal Health Veterinary Product Support team, volunteers her time as director of veterinary services for ASAR. Robyn has been hard at work providing relief for animals impacted by natural disasters, and she helped coordinate the shipping of animal health products to North Carolina.



A representative from Pender County Animal Shelter in Burgaw, N.C., receives donated Bayer Animal Health products.

Robyn is still volunteering time to provide necessary products to those impacted by Hurricane Michael. Earlier this month, Robyn helped ASAR establish Alachua County Humane Society in Gainesville, Fla., as a hub for pet food, supplies and animals needing immediate care before and after the storm. Through ASAR, Robyn has worked with counties throughout Florida to place more than 270 dogs in foster homes and transfer over 220 animals from evacuated shelters. The success of the relief efforts is due in part to solid preparation.

“Much of what we can do to help during a disaster is accomplished before the storm even occurs,” said Keiter. “By staying informed, you are better prepared to keep your family and pets safe. You can find all the information you need by contacting your emergency management center and then help spread the word to your communities.”

Another Bayer employee, Jan Seawell, took a unique approach to raising funds for animal shelters affected by Hurricane Florence. Jan,

a Bayer Animal Health companion animal sales representative, has been a longtime supporter of Danny and Ron's Rescue in South Carolina. She volunteered her time by hosting a screening of the documentary "Life in the Doghouse," which happens to be about Danny and Ron's journey from horse training to owning and operating a dog rescue. Moviegoers brought supplies for Danny and Ron to help displaced dogs, and they supported a special monetary donation drive to purchase additional supplies. Danny and Ron even made an appearance at the screening and hosted a Q&A session with the audience.

"There are many ways people can get involved," Jan said. "Volunteer your time at a rescue or local Humane Society. Dogs need to be exercised and they need love and socialization. Help spread the word about organizations that place animals in loving homes."

How You Can Help

While the storms have passed, impacted areas still have a long road to recovery. Relief efforts for Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael are still ongoing and, and we thank employees for their selfless efforts to help those in need.

Through a BayerNet portal, Bayer employees have donated to the Red Cross Hurricane Florence relief and to the general Disaster Relief Fund. The portal is still open for all employees to donate to the relief efforts. To donate now, [click here](#)!

