

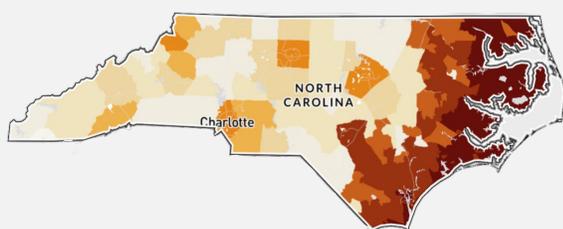
CLIMATE RISKS GROW FOR NORTH CAROLINA FARMS

North Carolina has a long and proud agricultural heritage. But increases in variable and extreme weather, including flooding, are challenging agricultural productivity and the livelihood of farmers and rural communities. Congress can't turn its back on hard-working North Carolinians – and the farm bill is the best opportunity to seed a more productive and resilient agricultural system.

WHY THE U.S. NEEDS NORTH CAROLINA

No U.S. state produces more poultry and eggs than North Carolina, which ranks eighth overall for agricultural sales. The state also ranks in the top five for cotton production. However, these important commodities face climate threats according to the U.S. Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI), a screening tool developed in partnership between EDF, Texas A&M University and community-based stakeholders. The CVI provides us with a better understanding of the growing climate risks facing farmers and ranchers by visualizing how drivers of cumulative vulnerability harm communities across the United States.

NORTH CAROLINA RANKS HIGHLY NATIONWIDE FOR VULNERABILITY TO FLOODING AND DECLINES IN FARMLAND VALUE

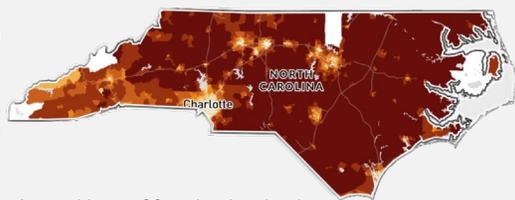


North Carolina is ranked **#12** in vulnerability to flooding.

FLOODING

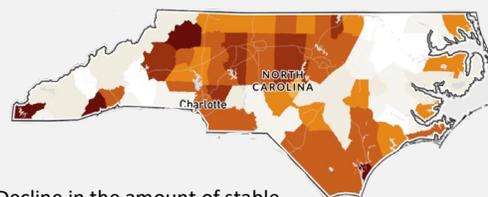
Data from the CVI indicates that census tracts along the state's coast are vulnerable to increases in flooding. As sea levels rise and rainfalls intensify, increased flooding endangers row crops and livestock, and degrades water quality. Many crops will also struggle to maintain their regular growing cycles, increasing the risk of crop failures and soil erosion.

AG LAND VALUE



Annual loss of farming land value due to climate change in the U.S.
 Ranks **7** out of **50** states and DC.

CROP YIELDS



Decline in the amount of stable crops produced by the year 2100.
 Ranks **16** out of **50** states and DC.

These climate vulnerabilities are disrupting agricultural production systems across the state. Without support, the effects of a changing climate will have a host of consequences for North Carolina's economy and the national food supply.

National Vulnerability Percentile

100

50

0

NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS NEED CONGRESS TO HELP THEM STAY PRODUCTIVE

North Carolina's farmers and ranchers need more technical and financial support to best respond to the changing climate. Many are already implementing cover crops, no-till, split nutrient application and other conservation practices on their farms.

Programs administered by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program and Regional Conservation Partnership Program, help producers adopt conservation practices that improve soil health, water quality and quantity, as well as the resilience of their land. These programs are incredibly popular, but the \$6 billion allocated for them in the 2018 Farm Bill doesn't go far enough. That's why up to two-thirds of applications for these voluntary programs are rejected each year.



THE SOLUTION

For this farm bill, North Carolina farmers need Congress to help them stay productive in a changing climate while also reducing environmental impacts.

Otherwise, we risk the food on our tables.