

September 11, 2011

My family has a farm in Brooklyn, CT that we have owned for 30 years. Four generations have been part of this farm at one time or another. We currently have dairy goats and a cheese facility that makes small batch artisan cheeses.

I would like to make my voice heard as to the consequence to this family farm due to the prolonged power outage during and after Hurricane Irene.

The power was out for over 3 days. Our generator couldn't keep up to running the cheese coolers, freezers, milking machine and holding tank for this long a period. We lost \$17,000 of inventory. This may not seem like a lot for a small business, but for a family farm that borrowed heavily to bring our dairy and cheese facility to modern, immaculate standards- it is devastating. After filing a claim with the insurance, we found that inventory spoilage is not covered in our policy.

As of this date, after filing with the USDA, FSA, FEMA, Disaster Recovery Assistance, it seems we do not fit into any category that qualifies for emergency assistance. The inventory lost was financially crucial to the farm's operating expenses. For the first time in 30 years it is truly questionable whether this farm can overcome this crisis.

Thank you for your time,

Denise Noiseux

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