

Accessing Disaster Relief Funding

To: FBGA Members

Certainly one of our big priorities for our industry is to tap into the normal risk management tools available to established agriculture. As an emerging industry, bamboo farming requires our efforts to connect with the USDA and FSA to establish that we have critical mass and should qualify for the same programs. We are making progress.

Disaster Relief - Hurricane Ian was a true natural disaster and affected most of the bamboo farms. The FSA has funding for up to 75% of cost impacts to your farm. We believe this will cover lost plants and maintenance. One of our Directors, Ben Norris, found that working with a private consultant enabled him to access the programs more easily. The important thing is to be eligible you *must register your farm before late March 2023*. The consultant charges 5% of benefits received. You can contact Paige Casey at 863-781-3660. Once registered, claims can be submitted during a two year period.

Soil Amendments Cost Share - Peter Chaires has connected with Alex Marks, a compost supplier, that is well versed in a cost share program of 75%. I have attached an explanation.