## **Press Release**

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## Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund Partners with Farm Aid to Provide Disaster Relief for Family Farmers in Texas and the US Virgin Islands Affected By Hurricanes

**East Point, GA – December 01, 2017** - Family farmers in Texas and the US Virgin Islands are receiving much-needed relief following Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. The Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund (FSC/LAF) has partnered with Farm Aid to distribute emergency relief grants to help farmers meet household expenses.

"Disaster Relief & Recovery is a major part of our cooperative economic development, land retention and advocacy efforts. Historically, the Federation has partnered with the cooperative community and foundations to support limited resource farmers, landowners and cooperatives across the South after major disasters including Hurricanes Katrina & Rita. We understand the challenges of rebuilding rural communities after a major disaster and we are extremely grateful for the opportunity to partner with Farm Aid in this work," said Cornelius Blanding, Executive Director of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund."

FSC/LAF will award over 40 family farmers a \$500.00 disaster grant to sustain their households and family/ personal needs (groceries, utility bills, medical, etc.) as they work through the hardships they are facing on their farms as a result of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

"The Federation is committed to providing ongoing cooperative development and land retention resources and support for family farmers to aid in the recovery and rebuilding process." stated Monica Armster Rainge, Director of Land Retention and Advocacy.

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