Hello, Neighbors! I hope Irma dealt with you lightly and your clean-up and recovery are nearly complete. Storms can leave behind damage that poses health and safety risks, such as unstable trees and flooded wells. Here are some tips to cope with the after-effects of this storm and others we may see through the seasons.

**Forsyth Fieldnotes**  
By Heather N. Kolich  
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UGA Extension Forsyth County

**Care for storm-damaged trees**  
Strong winds and ice storms create stress factors in trees that can break branches, snap trunks, and expose or lift roots from the ground. Trees with minor damage may be salvageable, but severely damaged trees pose hazards for people and property, and should be removed.

Before beginning any work on a storm-damaged tree, carefully assess the tree, neighboring trees, and the surrounding area for hazards. Broken branches that are hung up in trees are a falling hazard known as “widow makers.” Clear leaves and debris from the base of the tree and inspect the ground for signs of exposed roots and soil disturbance. Trees can become unstable under conditions of high winds and saturated soil.

If the tree is stable, prune out dead and broken branches as soon as possible. Prune small broken branches back to the main limb. Remove large branches just outside the branch collar, using the three cut method:

1. Make the first cut on the underside of the branch, 8-12 inches from the trunk, if possible. Cut about one-quarter of the way through the underside of the branch.
2. Make the second cut on the upper side of the branch a few inches in front of the undercut (toward the broken part of the branch). This creates a hinge that allows the branch to swing down, but prevents it from stripping the bark back to the trunk. Cut through the rest of the hinge to remove the branch.
3. With the final cut, saw off the stump just outside the branch collar, the thickened area where the limb attaches to the trunk. Do not paint the cut with paint or wound sealant.
For larger jobs, call in the professionals. You can find local, certified arborists on the Georgia Arborist Association’s website at www.georgiaarborist.org.

Post-flooding treatment for wells
Heavy rainfall and flooding can contaminate wells with pollutants and bacteria. Here are actions to take if your private well is overtopped with flood water during a storm.

As soon as possible after flooding, pump a minimum of 2 to 3 times the well volume out of the well. This action helps to clear the well of flood water and potential contaminants, including bacteria. Discard this water from an outside spigot so that 1) potentially contaminated water doesn’t enter indoor plumbing and 2) the excess volume of water doesn’t overwhelm your septic tank. To calculate how much water to pump out, use the formula pictured here: $\frac{\left(\frac{\text{Diameter}}{2}\right) \times \left(\frac{\text{Diameter}}{2}\right) \times 3.1416 \times (\text{Depth of Water in Well})}{231}$

For a 4 inch well 100 feet deep (100 feet is 1200 inches) $\frac{\left(\frac{4 \text{ inches}}{2}\right) \times \left(\frac{4 \text{ inches}}{2}\right) \times 3.1416 \times (1200)}{231}$ From this well configuration, the amount of water (assuming 3 exchanges of water) that would need to be pumped is 200 gallons. If your pump can deliver 5 gallons a minute then that would be 40 minutes of pumping.

After the initial pump out, use shock chlorination to disinfect the well by pouring 3 pints of plain, unscented household chlorine bleach per 100 gallons of water into your well. The bleach must stay in the system for 12-24 hours. At the end of the treatment period, pump out another 3 or 4 times the volume of the well. Again, the majority of this water should be discarded from an outside faucet with only a small portion being discarded through indoor faucets. If discharged into the septic tank, this highly chlorinated water could cause problems with bacterial colonies necessary for waste breakdown.

Finally, 1-2 weeks after shock chlorination treatment, have the water tested by a qualified lab to ensure that microbial contaminants are gone and the water is safe for drinking. Water used for drinking or cooking should be boiled until lab testing confirms that it is safe for consumption.

On the Farm Front

Hurricane Irma Assistance Deadlines
Georgia Farm Bureau sent out this information yesterday:

With farmers being affected by recent damage of Hurricane Irma, Farm Bureau members need to be aware of deadlines for assistance for USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs and documentation of crop losses through USDA’s Risk Management Agency.

FSA is authorizing emergency procedures to assist farmers in counties impacted by Hurricane Irma. Among the actions announced today are lengthened deadlines for certain provisions under the Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) program, the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program...
(FSFL), the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP), the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Emergency grazing may also be authorized under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for up to 60 days.

In addition, the deadlines to file a loss for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) has been extended. We encourage growers impacted by Hurricane Irma to contact their local FSA office for more details.

With regard to crop insurance claims, producers who discover crop damage and have purchased coverage through USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) should contact their crop insurance agent within 72 hours.

Free Vegetable and Small Fruit Workshop for Commercial Producers – Sept. 20, 9:30-2:30
Four UGA specialists will provide a day of education on commercial vegetable production and strawberry and blueberry management at the Gordon County Agricultural Service Center. Lunch included if you register by Monday, Sept. 18! Call 706-629-8685 or email gbowman@uga.edu to register.

Last Call for Hay Contest – Deadline extended through 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18!
Lab testing is the only way to determine forage quality. High quality hay provides better nutrition for your livestock with less volume of feed, can command a higher price, and may earn prizes! Forsyth County Hay Contest entries are automatically entered in the Southeast Regional Hay Contest, too.

Earlier Deadline for EQIP Applications – October 20, 2017
The USDA/NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides agricultural producers with cost-share funding for important practices that conserve soil, protect water quality, or restore wildlife habitats. The application deadline for 2018 projects is October 20, 2017.

Journeyman Farmer Certificate Program Registration is Open!
The Journeyman Farmer Certificate Program helps beginning and small-scale farmers get the education and information they need to run a successful small farm enterprise. Registration is now open for Part 1 and Part 2 of the program being offered January-March, 2018 at Lanier Technical College in Forsyth County. Sign up for one or both!

Part 1: Small Farm Business Planning – January 20 & 27, 2018, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., $50
Topics covered include:
- Preparing a business plan
- Financial feasibility
- Using balance sheets
- Accrual income
- Risk management
- Licensing and certifications
- Marketing and selling your products
Part 2: Vegetable and Small Fruit Production – Thursdays, Feb. 15-March 22, 6:30-9 p.m. & Saturday, February 24, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., $75
Topics covered include:
- Soil health and fertility
- Cover crops
- Crop rotation
- Pest management & pesticide safety
- Seasonality and crop selection
- Plant propagation
- Tools and equipment
- Post-harvest management
- Food safety
- Market planning

Fresh and Local Foods – Snap Beans
By Barbara Worley
Family & Consumer Sciences Agent
UGA Extension Forsyth County

Put a little “snap” in your meal
Snap beans, which refer to green, pole, and wax beans, are in season in Georgia from June through September. Listen carefully to hear the “snap” when you remove the ends and you’ll know how they got their name!

Snap beans were once called “string beans” due to the strings running down their sides. Over the years, however, plant scientists have bred the tough string out of the beans. Unlike dry beans, you can eat both the pod and the seeds of snap beans.

Snap beans are fat free, low in calories and sodium, and are a good source of dietary fiber and vitamin C. They also contain some vitamin A, iron, and calcium. There are only 20 calories in a ¾ cup serving of cut beans.

When selecting snap beans, look for fresh, crisp, bright green, and firm beans that snap when broken. Beans that are clean, fairly straight, and free from blemishes will be easier to prepare and produce less waste. Store fresh beans in the refrigerator in a moisture-proof container or in the vegetable crisper for up to one week.

To prepare snap beans, rinse them in cold, running water and allow them to drain. Trim ends by snapping them off or cutting with a knife. Cook beans for as little time as possible to retain the most nutrients.
An easy way to preserve snap beans is by freezing. Wash and trim ends as described above, then cut beans into 2-4 inch lengths. Water blanch for 3 minutes. Cool promptly, drain, and package, leaving ½ inch headspace in zip-top freezer bags. Seal and freeze for future enjoyment.

**Sautéed Green Beans**

*Ingredients*  
1.5 pounds green beans, rinsed, trimmed, and cut diagonally into 1.5 inch pieces  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
Coarse salt and ground pepper to taste

*Directions*  
1. Blanch beans in boiling, salted water, uncovered, until crisp-tender, about 1 to 2 minutes. Immediately plunge beans into a bowl of ice and cold water. Drain beans in a colander.  
2. Heat oil in a heavy skillet over medium-high heat. Sauté beans, stirring, until just tender and starting to brown (about 2-3 minutes). Season with salt and pepper and serve immediately.

**Extension Classes and Events**

**Play in the Park – September 30**  
Visit our Extension booth during Play in the Park at Fowler Park for cooking demonstrations, games, and information.

**Fall Plant Sale – now through October 15**  
Fall is the best time to plant trees and shrubs, and we have a great selection of fruit plants – including many native varieties – for your home orchard or food plot.

**Baking and Canning Contest**  
It’s almost time for this popular annual competition! Winner announced on opening night of the Cumming Country Fair and Festival.

Visit our [website](http://www.ugaextension.com/forsyth) for full details, more opportunities, and lots of information.