

What to Do When Disaster Strikes

Disaster Planning for Farms in the
Real World

Angela Magney - Magney Legacy Ridge
Farm

Chad Conway- Knott County Ag & Natural
Resources Agent



Why Preparedness Matters

- ▶ Disasters happen
- ▶ Farms face unique risks
- ▶ Having a plan changes everything

What Counts as a “Disaster”?

- Weather extremes
- Crop failure
- Chemical overspray
- Equipment breakdown
- Illness or family crisis
- Labor disruption



The First 24 Hours

- Pause & protect people
- Document everything
- Don't make permanent decisions
- Call for help early





Crop Overspray: Immediate Steps

- Stop harvest
- Photograph & record
- Notify Kentucky Dept of Consumer and Environmental Office-
- Fill Out Pesticide Complaint Form- Be thorough
- Notify Organic Certifier
- Communicate carefully — Document Everything
- Protect your mental health



Who Do You Call First?

- Farm team
- Certifier
- County Extension Office
- Neighbor farmers
- Customers
- Family support

Weather Emergencies on the Farm

- Tornadoes
- Flooding –
- Flash Floods
- Ice Storms
- Power outages
- Access cut off



Tornadoes — First Priorities

- Human safety comes first
- Account for everyone
- Assess damage only when safe
- Document everything



Tornadoes — Farm-Specific Impacts

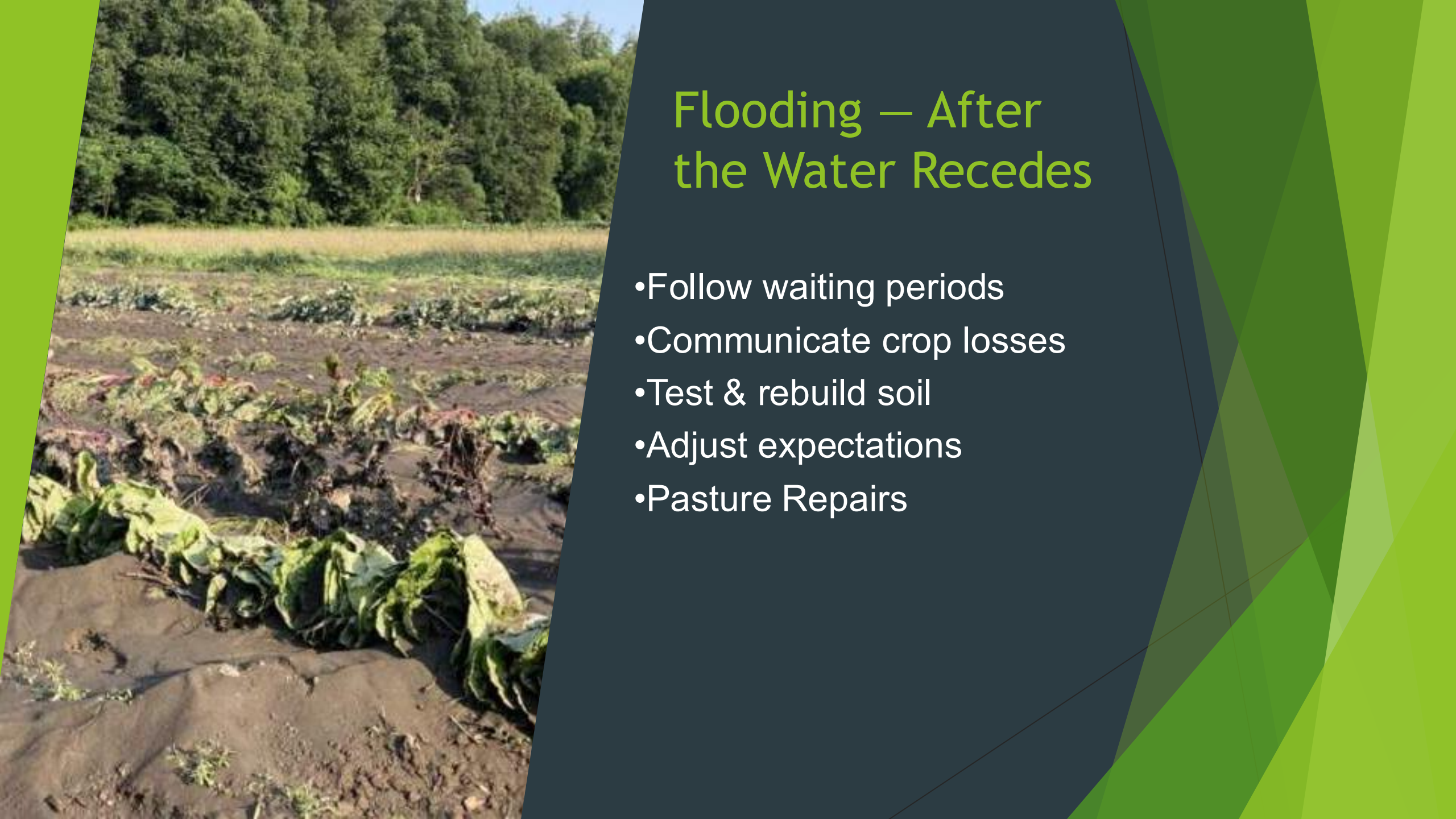
- High tunnel damage
- Debris in fields
- Lost power & water
- Equipment displacement
- Livestock



Flooding — Immediate Response

- Stop harvest
- Protect food safety
- Mark flooded fields
- Document water levels & timing
- Check Livestock





Flooding — After the Water Recedes

- Follow waiting periods
- Communicate crop losses
- Test & rebuild soil
- Adjust expectations
- Pasture Repairs

What You Can Do *Before* the Storm



Identify and Plan



Anchor tunnels



Backup power plans



Emergency contact list

Key Takeaway

Safety > speed

Documentation protects you

Communication builds trust

Recovery takes time