

ECONOMIC IMPACTS on the Eastern Shore

What is happening?

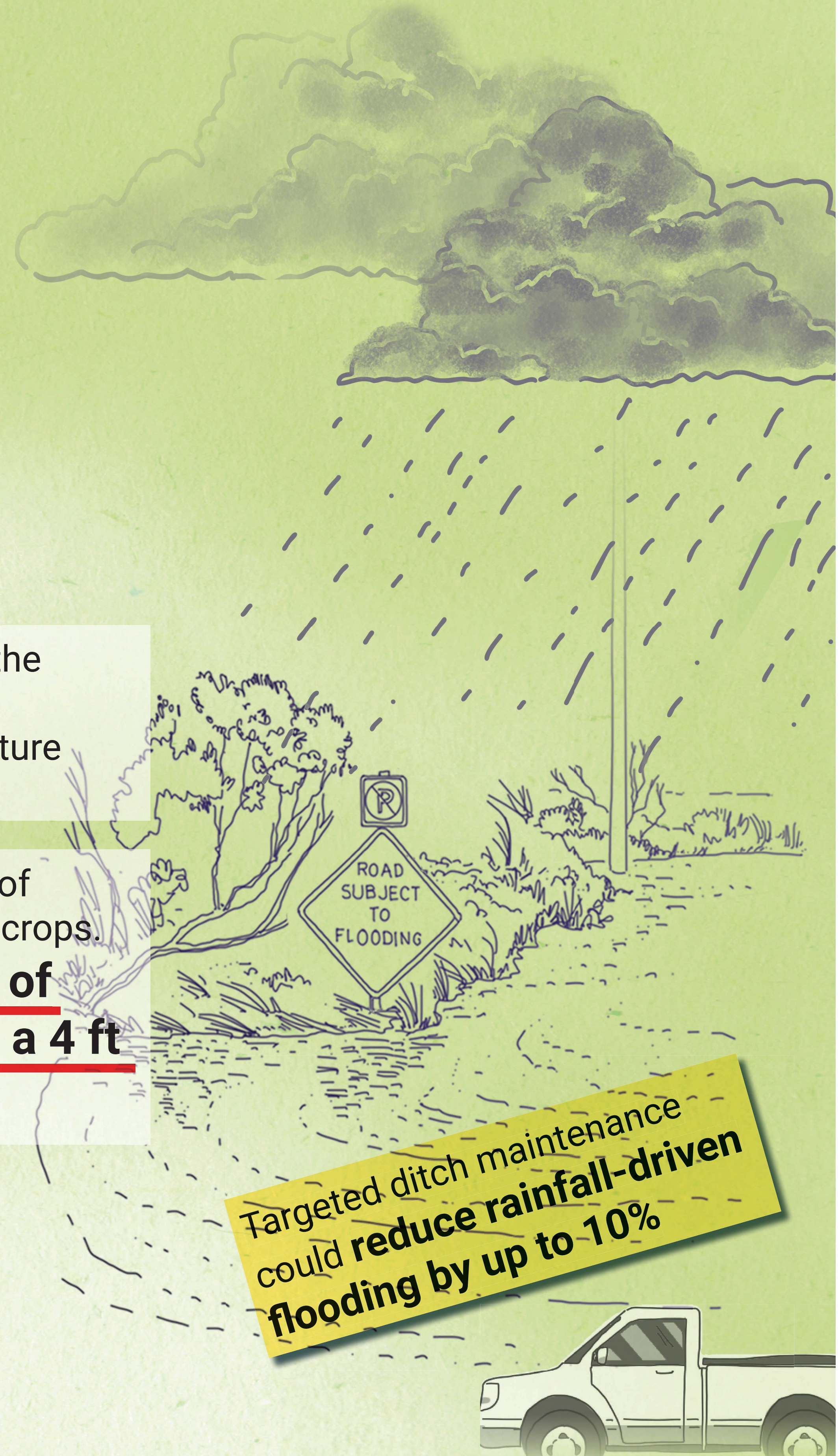
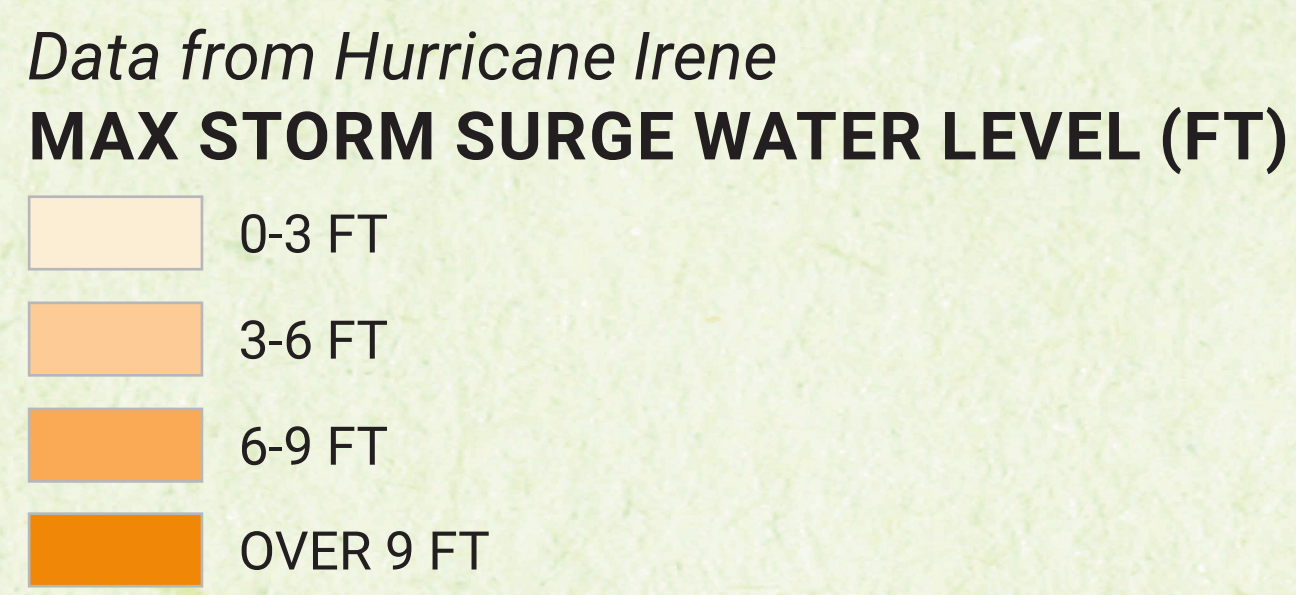
In the next 40 years . . .

Rising seas and stronger storms are expected to drive a **20–50% increase in storm surge**, raising the risk of coastal flooding across the region.



Around **60 businesses** on the ESVA sit within the >3 ft storm surge level and are at risk in future hurricanes.

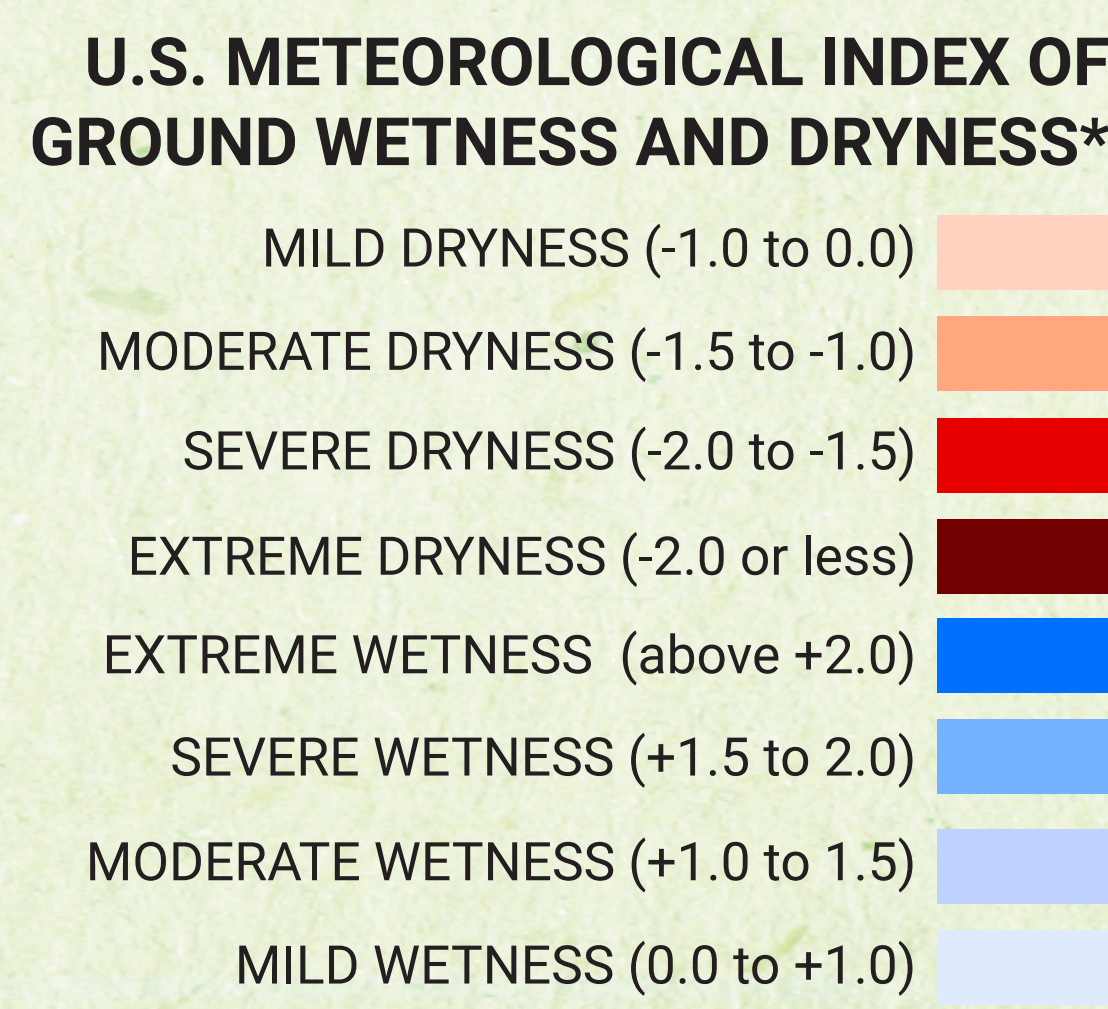
The Eastern Shore grows 36% of Virginia's high-value vegetable crops. **In 25 years, 4573 acres of farmland may be within a 4 ft storm surge zone.**



In the next 50 years . . .

The Eastern Shore of Virginia is likely to face **longer dry periods followed by sudden, intense rainfall and storms.**

Extreme rainfall is expected to **increase roadway flooding by 9–13%**, putting an **additional 180 miles of local roads at risk.**



By 2080 . . .

Under continued drought conditions, the ESVA's shallow aquifer could **lose over 14 billion gallons of freshwater.** This is equal to 2.5 years of current water use.

What does this mean?

The ESVA is likely to face **longer dry periods followed by sudden, intense rainfall and storms.**

Businesses on the Eastern Shore may be vulnerable to increasing levels of storm surge flooding.

Valuable farmland may be increasingly at risk from weather events and salinization.

Proactive investment today in public infrastructure can protect public safety, keep ESVA connected, and maintain economic stability in the decades ahead.

Co-Produced by Residents of the Eastern Shore & The Eastern Shore Livability Hub Team

Culver, Teresa, Farshad Hesamfar, Sergio A. Barbosa, and Lawrence Band. 2025. "Depth to Groundwater and Septic System Vulnerability."

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Farshad Hesamfar, Sergio A. Barbosa, Thanh-Nhan-Duc Tran, Teresa Culver, Lawrence Band, and Venkataraman Lakshmi

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