

## Your Farm Service Agency Online Monthly Newsletter Covering the Latest Topics

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### Candidates for County Committee Elections (COC)

The following is a list, by county, of the 2012 Farm Service Agency County Committee nominees. A short background of each nominee is provided as well as a description of the Local Administrative Area (LAA) that they represent.

**Hawaii County** - LAA#2 - Kona and Mauna Kea; Tax Map Zones 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Lee Sugai is nominated in LAA #2 Hawaii County, to serve as COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2013. Lee resides in LAA#2 and has produced Kona Coffee since 1989. Lee is one of the founding members of the Kona Coffee Council, and former member of the Kona Farmers Alliance. Lee is willing to serve if elected.

**Maui County** - LAA#1 - North, Northwest and Northeast of Kuihelani Hwy, Hana Hwy, and Haleakala Hwy. Includes Hana, Keanae, Haiku, Makawao, Paia, Kahului, Wailuku, Kahakuloa and Lahaina.

Paul Lopes is nominated in LAA #1, Maui County, to serve as COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2013. Paul resides in LAA #1, and has been the

owner and operator of a cattle, hog, sheep and goat operation for more than 30 years. Paul is currently the manager of Kaonoulu Ranch. Paul is willing to serve if elected.

Anna Palomino is nominated in LAA #1, Maui County, to serve as COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2013. Anna resides in LAA #1, and has produced native Hawaiian plants for more than 25 years. She is currently the owner and operator of Ho'olawa Farms. Anna is willing to serve if elected.

**Honolulu County** - LAA#3 - West and Northshore of Oahu. Includes Waipahu, Ewa, Kunia, Wahiawa, Makakilo, Nana-kuli, Waianae, Waialua and Mokuleia.

Patsy Oshiro is nominated in LAA #3, Honolulu County, to serve as COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2013. Patsy Oshiro resides in Waianae (LAA #3), and has produced hogs for over 20 years. She grew up on a Manoa lettuce farm in Waianae. Patsy is an active member of National Pork Producers Council through the Hawaii Pork Industry Association and serves as the Hawaii State contact to the National Pork Board. Patsy is willing to serve if elected.

**Kauai County** - LAA#3 - Anahola, Aliomanu, Papaa, Moloaa and all of the Hanalei District.

Philip D.B. Davies is nominated in LAA #3, Kauai County, to serve as COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2013. Philip resides and farms in Wai-akalua and produces organic vegetables for the past 20 years. He is a member of the Hawaii Organic Farmers Association and a member of the Farm Bureau. Philip is willing to serve if elected.

**Hawaii & Pacific Basin  
Farm Service Agency  
Offices:**

**Hawaii & Pacific Basin  
FSA State Office**

737 Bishop St, Ste 2340  
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**Hawaii County FSA  
Hilo**

154 Waianuenue Ave,  
Rm 102  
Hilo, HI 96720  
Ph: (808)933-8381 x 1  
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**Kona**

The Kona Office is  
closed until further notice  
Please call 933-8381 x 1  
for service or information

**Honolulu County FSA**

99-193 Aiea Heights Dr,  
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**Kauai County FSA**

4334 Rice St, Rm 103  
Lihue, HI 96766  
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**Maui County FSA**

77 Hookele St, Ste 201  
Kahului, HI 96732  
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400 Route 8, Ste 306  
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**American Samoa FSA**

Pago Plaza Bldg, Ste  
213  
Pago Pago, AS 96799  
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**Hours**

Monday—Friday  
8:00 am—4:00 pm

**Website**

[www.fsa.usda.gov/hi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/hi)

Barbara “Sachi” Shinoda is nominated in LAA #3, Kauai County, to serve as COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2013. Barbara resides and farms in Waiakalua and has been farming orchids for the past 17 years and has been in the plant nursery business for 38 years. Sachi is a member of the Kauai Orchid Society, Treasurer, Kauai County Farm Bureau, Orchid Growers of Hawaii, and a member of the Farm Bureau. Sachi is willing to serve if elected.

Dick I Yoshij is nominated in LAA #3, Kauai County, to serve as COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2013. Dick resides and farms in Moloaa and has been producing tropical fruits for the past 38 years. He is a member of the Kauai County Farm Bureau. Dick is willing to serve if elected.

**Guam - LAA#1-1 - Anderson AFB, Yigo and parts of Dededo (north of Ysengsong).**

Ernest Wusstig is nominated in LAA #1-1, Guam, to serve as COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2013. Ernie resides in LAA #1-1, and has produced crops for 30 years. Ernie is a former director of the Northern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District, Pacific Basin Association Conservation District and has served as Chairperson and President, respectively. Ernie is willing to serve if elected.

Teddy Concepcion is nominated in LAA #1-1, Guam, to serve as COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2013. Ted resides in LAA #1-1, and has produced livestock for 35 years. Ted is an active member of the Steering Committee for the Guam Livestock Association and serves as member. Ted is willing to serve if elected.

Lourdes Stein is nominated in LAA #1-1, Guam, to serve as COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2013. Lou resides in LAA #1-1, and has produced ornamental crops for 15 years. Lou is an active member of the Guam Nurserymen's Association and serves as President. Lou is willing to serve if elected.

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands - LAA#2-1 - Island of Rota**

James Manglona is nominated in LAA #2-1, Rota, to serve as COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2013. James resides in LAA #2-1, and has produced crop and livestock for 20 years. James is a former director of the Rota Soil and Water Conservation District and has served as a Vice Chairperson and member. James is willing to serve if elected.

David Calvo is nominated in LAA #2-1, Rota, to serve as COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2013. Dave resides in LAA #2-1, and has produced crop & livestock for 15 years. Dave is an active member of the Rota Soil and Water Conservation District and the Rota Marketing Association and serves as Vice Chairperson. Dave is willing to serve if elected.

**Emergency Farm Loans**

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters or quarantine. Depending on the type of loss, emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year
- Pay essential family living expense
- Reorganize the farming operation
- Refinance certain debts

Further information and applications for the Emergency Loan Program are available at local FSA county offices. Contact your nearest office for an appointment.

**RTCP 2012 Reminder:** Reimbursement of Transportation Cost Payment Program benefits are based on transportation costs incurred during the fiscal year, producers who filed a timely application have until November 5, 2012 to provide supporting documentation of their actual transportation costs.





Uchima cows graze contentedly in Big Island pasture

## **COWS, COWS, COWS: FSA's Programs Help Big Island Rancher**

East Hawaii rancher, Roger Uchima didn't grow up around ranching, but he's finding success with a little help from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and a strong support system of friends and mentors in the ranching community.

As an adult, Roger learned about ranching by helping his friends at roundups. He liked the ranching lifestyle and decided to start his own operation in 2006 with 20 cows on 30 acres of leasehold land. Gaining a bit of first-hand experience, Roger continued to grow his cow/calf operation and in 2008 sought out assistance from FSA's Hawaii County Farm Loan Program to further expand his herd.

Roger met with then Assistant Manager John Tamashiro who helped him obtain financing for the purchase of 270 cows and secure an additional 2,500 acre leasehold parcel. Roger soon learned of other FSA programs that were available to support his business in both good and challenging times. Since those early days, he has taken advantage of FSA's Reimbursement of Transportation Cost Payment Program (RTCP), Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP), and Livestock Forage Program (LFP). Uchima is also working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); participating in their Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Having previous success with an EQIP project, Roger has continued with this NRCS program to improve his ranch by installing additional fencing.

In addition to part-time management of his ranch, Roger is a full-time heavy equipment operator. Hard work and working with a strong support system has paid off. Today, Roger has doubled his 2008 herd to 560 cows and is making the most of his 2,500 acre leasehold as his herd continues to expand. Roger notes, "Without the

help of FSA in 2008, it probably wouldn't have been possible to expand my operation to what it is today, as I was not able to obtain commercial financing elsewhere at the time."

## **Youth Loans**

Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other non-profit organizations, examples of which include schools and faith-based institutions. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Stop by your county office for details and help in preparing and processing the application forms.



The Bukoski sisters, Kyra and Lael, recently exhibited at the 2012 Kauai County Farm Bureau Fair with assistance from the Farm Service Agency's Youth Loan Program. Kyra won 1st place wool/hair lamb and 3rd place Junior Showmanship. Lael took 2nd place wool/hair lamb and 1st place for Junior Showmanship, while their sister Billie Ann (not pictured) took 3rd place steer and 2nd place steer showmanship



Chad Andrade was able to fund a steer, goat and sheep project with the assistance he received through an FSA Youth Loan. Chad took home numerous honors at the recent Kauai County Farm Bureau Fair, including 1st place steer, 1st place goat and 1st place lamb showmanship.

## NAP Loss Filing

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely submission of a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 in the Farm Service Agency County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

## Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the Farm Service Agency county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities
- Renewable biomass
- Hay
- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole

grain

- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas

For more information about FSFL please visit your Farm Service Agency county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov/hi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/hi).

## CREP & Continuous CRP Available

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allows farmers and ranchers to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive land into a program that decreases erosion, restores wildlife habitat and safeguards ground and surface water. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is a partnership with federal and state government.

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the CREP or Continuous Conservation Reserve Program will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share of up to 50 percent on approved practices. There are also Signup Incentive Payments (SIP) and Practice Incentive Payments (PIP) available on certain practices. These programs will remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.



**Farm Service Agency's Hawaii and Pacific Basin State office staff with their 1,246 lb donation for the Feds Feed Families Food Drive**

## Feds Feed Families Food Drive

Food banks across the country face severe shortages of non-perishable items. Over the past three years, the Federal workforce has stepped up to help alleviate this problem with the Feds Feed Families Food Drive, collecting an astounding 8 million pounds of food and non-perishable items.

This year, the Farm Service Agency's Hawaii and Pacific Basin offices, a total of 31 employees collected 4,169 lbs during the three month food drive. For more information on the Feds Feed Families Food Drive visit their website at [www.fedsfeedfamilies.gov](http://www.fedsfeedfamilies.gov).



## AFIDA – Foreign Investor Disclosure

Any foreign person who acquires, transfers or holds any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction. They must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located.

For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more. For more information regarding AFIDA and FSA programs, contact the FSA office near you or visit the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov>.

## Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) supports the Risk Management Agency (RMA) in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. Farm Service Agency will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.



### Interest Rates for September 2012

<b>Farm Operating - Direct</b>	<b>1.125%</b>
<b>Farm Ownership - Direct</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
<b>Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher</b>	<b>1.50%</b>
<b>Emergency</b>	<b>2.125%</b>
<b>Limited Resource</b>	<b>5.000%</b>

## Dates to Remember

<b>September 20 - 21</b>	<b>FSA information table at 2012 Hawaii Agriculture Conference, Honolulu County</b>
<b>September 27 - 30</b>	<b>FSA information booth at the Maui County Fair, War Memorial Complex, Maui County</b>
<b>September 28 &amp; 29</b>	<b>FSA information booth at Big Island Association of Nurserymen 2012 Horticultural Show and Scholarship Benefit Plant Sale, Edith Kanaka'ole Tennis Stadium, Hawaii County</b>
<b>October 9</b>	<b>Deadline to apply for emergency loans due to vog in Hawaii County</b>
<b>November 5</b>	<b>County Committee election ballots mailed to eligible voters</b>
<b>December 1</b>	<b>2013 NAP deadline for vegetables, fruits, livestock forage and honey</b>
<b>December 3</b>	<b>Last day to return complete County Committee ballots to FSA County Office</b>
<b>March 13, 2013</b>	<b>Deadline to apply for emergency loans due to drought in Hawaii County, Maui County, and Honolulu County</b>
<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Hawaii CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) Signup</b>

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