



Hawaii & Pacific Basin NEWSLETTER



Your Farm Service Agency Online Monthly Newsletter Covering the Latest Topics

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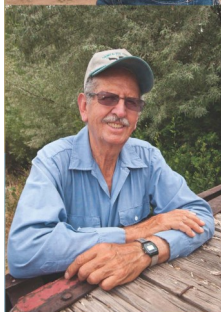
USDA Announces Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.



Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: **1-888-508-4429**

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

2011 SURE Signup Begins October 22

The 2011 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program will open October 22, 2012 and will end June 7, 2013. The SURE program authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through September 30, 2011.

Production losses due to disasters occurring after September 30, 2011, are not eligible for disaster program coverage.

Continued on page 2

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

**Hawaii & Pacific Basin
FSA State Office**

737 Bishop St, Ste 2340
Honolulu, HI 96813
Ph: (808)441-2704
Fax: (808)441-2705

**Hawaii County FSA
Hilo**

154 Waiuanue Ave,
Rm 102
Hilo, HI 96720
Ph: (808)933-8381 x 1
Fax: (808)933-8345

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,
Suite 114
Aiea, HI 96701
Ph: (808)483-8600 x 2
Fax: (808)483-8615

Kauai County FSA

4334 Rice St, Rm 103
Lihue, HI 96766
Ph: (808)245-9014 x 2
Fax: (808)246-4639

Maui County FSA

77 Hookele St, Ste 201
Kahului, HI 96732
Ph: (808)871-5500 x 2
Fax: (808)873-6183

Guam FSA Office

400 Route 8, Ste 306
Mongmong, GU 96910
Ph: (671)472-7568
Fax: (671)472-7580
CNMI (670)234-0896

American Samoa FSA

Pago Plaza Bldg, Ste
213
Pago Pago, AS 96799
Ph: (684)633-1031 x121
Fax: (684)633-7614

Hours

Monday—Friday
8:00 am—4:00 pm

Website

www.fsa.usda.gov/hi

2011 SURE signup Cont'd from page 1

To be eligible for SURE, a farm or ranch must have:

- At least a 10-percent production loss on a crop of economic significance;
- A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops; and
- Been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Secretary of Agriculture under a Secretarial Disaster Designation.

Without a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. A 'farm' for SURE purposes means the entirety of all crop acreage in all counties that a producer planted or intended to be planted for harvest for normal commercial sale or on-farm livestock feeding, including native and improved grassland intended for haying.

Hawaii County is the only county in Hawaii with a Secretarial Disaster Designation in 2011.

Producers may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage if they qualify as a minority, woman, beginning farmer or rancher, or are a limited resource producer.

IRS 1099 Changes

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way Farm Service Agency (FSA) reports farm program payments to the producer and to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the FSA, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form

1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from the Farm Service Agency.

Increased Guaranteed Loan Limit

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that the loan limit for the guaranteed loan program has increased to \$1.302 million effective October 1, 2012. The limit is adjusted annually based on producer cost data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,602,000.

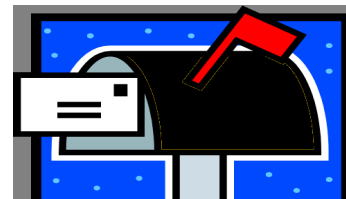
As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.



County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on November 5, 2012. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county Farm Service Agency office.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on December 3, 2012.





Owner and Operator of Goble Flower Farm, Woodruff Goble

New Jersey to Maui, by way of Vietnam: Honoring a Maui Farmer and Veteran

New Jersey and Maui may have more differences than similarities but among those common denominators is Woodruff "Woody" Goble, who grew up in Livingston, New Jersey. Woody, a graduate of The Citadel, joined the United States Marine Corps in 1966 where he obtained the rank of Captain and served as a helicopter pilot. He was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart and 46 Air Medals during his service in Vietnam. Woody served a total of 8 ½ years in the Marine Corps.

Following his service in Vietnam, in the early 1970's, Woody choose to live in balmy Hawaii instead of a cold New Jersey. He then promptly enrolled in the horticultural program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM). During his education at UHM Woody visited Maui and the Maui County Fair. The agricultural exhibits and horticulture displays inspired him. He came away with an overwhelming confidence that, 'I could do that!' Following this inspiration, Woody decided on a career as a farmer.

In 1976, he started out by leasing some land. This eventually led to the purchase of his own farm in Kamaole with the assistance of a loan through the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Finding that FSA's



Goble Flower Farm Tropical Basket, Dendrobium and Bird of Paradise arrangements

loan was of significant value to his operation, Woody took time out to learn about and participate in other programs available through FSA.

Initially Woody was a carnation grower, but he now grows Bird of Paradise, Protea and other tropical flowers on eight acres. He likes to think one of the great accomplishments of his thirty-eight years of farming has been pioneering the introduction of new crops to Maui such as Pink Ivory and Brazilian Rosewood trees.

Woody and his wife, Carmen, have been married for forty-one years. The Gobles have four children and eight grandchildren.



Kauai County Designated Drought Disaster Area

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated Kauai County as a primary natural disaster area due to losses caused by an ongoing drought that, for purposes of this disaster designation, began January 1, 2012, and continues.

The September 26, 2012, disaster designation makes all qualified farm operators on the island of Kauai eligible for low interest emergency loans (EM) from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers have until May 27, 2013 to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. Farm Service Agency will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

The USDA also has other programs available to assist farmers and ranchers, including Federal Crop Insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

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.

For more information go to:

www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport

Electronic Services Available

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements.

Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

Need Information

The Hawaii and Pacific Basin Farm Service Agency (FSA) internet site contains news and information on FSA programs, an FSA programs calendar, and hot links to other agriculture related sites.

Find the information you are looking for at: www.fsa.usda.gov/hi

Dates to Remember

November 5	County Committee election ballots mailed to eligible voters
November 12	FSA Offices closed for Veteran's Day Holiday
November 22	FSA Offices closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
December 1	2013 NAP deadline for vegetables, fruits, livestock forage and honey
December 3	Last day to return completed County Committee ballots to FSA County Offices
March 13, 2013	Deadline to apply for emergency loans due to drought in Hawaii County, Maui County, and Honolulu County
May 27, 2013	Deadline to apply for emergency loans due to drought in Kauai County
Ongoing	Hawaii CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) Signup

Interest Rates for October 2012

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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).