

Your Farm Service Agency Online Monthly Newsletter Covering the Latest Topics

In this Issue:

Page 1:

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

Page 2:

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

IRS Form 1099 Changes

Page 3:

2013 Census of Agriculture

Guaranteed Loan Limits

Emergency Farm Loans

Hawaii Agriculture Mediation Program

Page 4:

After 40 Years with the Farm Service Agency Henry Fong Retires

Loan Deficiency Payments for Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Interest Rates for December 2012

Page 5:

Dates to Remember



Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) 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.

USDA 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.

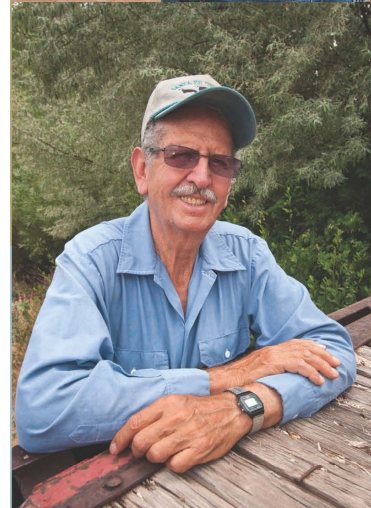
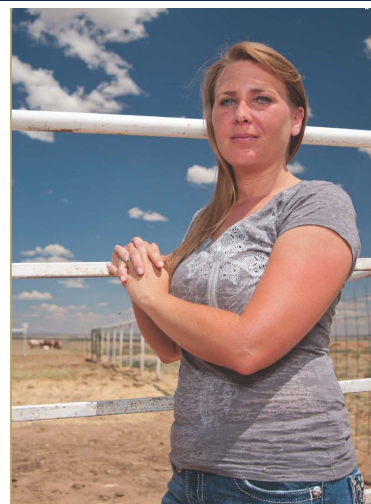
Claimants can obtain a claims package in the mail by calling 1-888-509-4429 or visiting the website www.farmerclaims.gov. The claims package will be mailed to claimants.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: Sept. 24, 2012 - Mar. 25, 2013.

An independent third-party administrator will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. There are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, but claimants may retain an attorney or other legal services provider. The USDA news release provides more background: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>.



**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

770 East Sunset Blvd,
Ste 265
Barrigada, Guam 96913
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 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Applications

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE guarantee and total farm revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000. To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops.

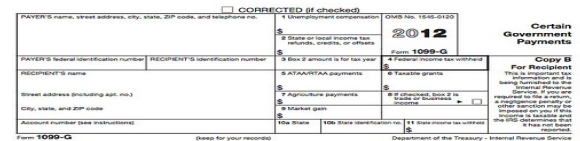
For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins, cucumbers and others, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage through FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. In addition, producers must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss in the Secretarial Disaster Designation for the county or a 50% loss in actual crop production.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program or other Farm Service Agency programs, call your local FSA office for an appointment or visit the Farm Service Agency website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/.



NAP Coverage Deadlines

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee MUST be filed by the crop sales closing date. Contact the local Farm Service Agency office for the filing dates for your crops.



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 Form 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from 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 (1) county will only receive one (1) Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to those who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.



2013 Ag Census Coming

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will mail the 2013 Census of Agriculture in mid-December. If you receive an Ag Census form, please complete and return it by the February 4, 2013 deadline.

Producers can easily and securely respond online after receiving their census form at www.agcensus.usda.gov. For questions or help completing the form producers can contact NASS at (888) 424-7828.

The Census of Agriculture is conducted only once every five (5) years to accurately collect demographic information about farmers, ranchers and their operations. USDA agencies and many other institutions and organizations use the results of the Census for education, research, planning and policy-making decisions within government, as well as business, industry and academia. The use of this valuable information impacts everyone across our nation.

Guaranteed Loan Limit

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that as of October 1, 2012 the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program is \$1,302,000.

This limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The FSA overall lending ceiling increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness is now \$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.



Emergency Farm Loans

Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers with qualifying losses to

recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.

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 expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.



Hawaii Agricultural Mediation Program

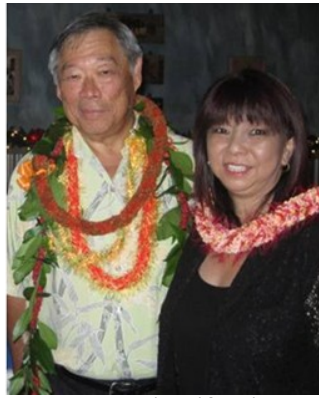
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified Hawaii Agricultural Mediation Program (HIAMP) provides mediation services to the agricultural community in the state of Hawaii. The program is intended to assist agricultural producers, their lenders and other persons directly affected by the actions of the USDA in resolving disputes. Through the mediation process, a trained, impartial person (mediator) helps participants review their conflicts, identify options and agree on solutions.

Mediation is a voluntary and confidential alternative to the traditional legal and regulatory process, and it is offered as part of the Department's informal appeals process; however, mediation must be requested before an appeal hearing is held with the USDA mediation or an appeal is made to the National Appeals Division. It is not intended to override or supersede any existing federal regulation or procedures.

Services under HIAMP are made available free of charge for USDA related cases. For more information visit: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/himmediationlink.pdf or www.hiamp.org.

After 40 years with Farm Service Agency Henry Fong Retires

Henry Fong, Hawaii and Pacific Basin's only District Director is a wise and knowledgeable teacher. He is also a generous, humble, helpful, patient and caring gentleman whose wit and laughter wins the hearts of others. He enjoys golf, Disney and food. These are the descriptions given by his coworkers when asked to describe him.



Henry and his wife Dianne at his retirement party

After 40 years of service, Henry was surprised to receive his Certificate of Service from Under Secretary Scuse who was in Hawaii at the time. Henry began working on January 9, 1972 as a County Executive Director (CED) trainee with the then Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) which later became Farm Service Agency (FSA). In 1991, he became a Lead Agricultural Program Specialist and District Director.

Henry has seen a lot of history take place within the agency. Many people have come and gone. There have been 13 Secretaries of Agriculture and 8 Presidents since Henry began working. In 1994, a reorganization of the United States Department of Agriculture resulted in the ASCS becoming the Consolidated Farm Service Agency, renamed in November 1995 to Farm Service Agency. The new FSA encompassed the ASCS and the farm credit portion of the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA). Henry has many stories to tell about FSA and can 'talk story' for hours.

The major program for Hawaii when Henry started working was the Agriculture Conservation Program (ACP) and Henry remembers when funds for the program were withheld. Employees were informed that they would be laid off. Henry recalls, "I had my personal items from my desk all packed up and was ready to leave the office, when the call came in that I was not laid off and should continue working."

Friends and co-workers helped Henry celebrate his retirement with a party held on December 1st. He reminisced, "Several times I wondered if I should find a different job, but I stayed with FSA and I'm really glad that I did. I have met and worked with a lot of great people and I have enjoyed my time with FSA."



Loan Deficiency Payments for Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until January 31, 2013, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn lamb pelts produced during the 2012 crop year.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

For an eligible producer to qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

For more information concerning the Loan Deficiency Program or other Farm Service Agency programs, call your local FSA office for an appointment or visit the Farm Service Agency website at:

www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/.

Interest Rates for December 2012	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	2.125%
Limited Resource	5.000%



Happy Holidays!

Dates to Remember

December 18, 2012	Last day to apply for emergency loans in Kauai County under Presidential Declaration for severe storms and flooding occurring March 2012
December 25, 2012	Christmas Day, FSA Offices Closed
January 01, 2013	New Year's Day, FSA Offices Closed
March 13, 2013	Deadline to apply for emergency loans due to drought in Hawaii County, Maui County, and Honolulu County
March 25, 2013	Deadline to file a claim under the Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Process.
May 27, 2013	Deadline to apply for emergency loans due to drought in Kauai County
June 07, 2013	2011 SURE Application Deadline
Ongoing	Hawaii CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) sign-up

Need Information

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

Find the information you are looking for at:

www.fsa.usda.gov/hi

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).