



Hawaii & Pacific Basin NEWSLETTER

Your Farm Service Agency Online Monthly Newsletter Covering the Latest Topics

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County FSA Committee



Congratulations to those producers who were elected/re-elected to the county committee (COC). This year's election results are as follows:

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

- Lee Y. Sugai - COC Member
- Colehour J. Bondera - First Alternate

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 - COC Member
- Anna Palomino - First Alternate

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

- Patsy Oshiro—COC Member

Kauai County – LAA#3 Anahola, Alio-manu, Papaa, Moloaa and all of the Hana-lei District

- Philip D.B. Davies - COC Member
- Dick I. Yoshii - First Alternate
- Barbara “Sachi” Shinoda - Second Alternate

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

- Ernest Wusstig - COC Member
- Lourdes Stein - First Alternate
- Teddy Concepcion - Second Alternate

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

- James Manglona - COC Member
- David Calvo - First Alternate
- Norbert H Mundo - Second Alternate

Farm Service Agency appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members will hold their organizational meetings in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.



Production records for all crops must be reported to Farm Service Agency (FSA) no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. Farm Service Agency requires that any production reported in a loss year be verified according to agency specifications. NAP losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.

Hawaii State & Pacific Basin Farm Service Agency Offices:

Hawaii State & Pacific Basin FSA 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 (808)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,
Suite 265
Barrigada, GU 96913
Ph: (671)472-7568
Fax: (671)472-7580
CNMI (670)234-0896

American Samoa FSA

Pago Plaza Building
Suite 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

Aloha and Mahalo Harry Choy!

What better way to conclude our Farm Service Agency honoring veteran's series than with a brief biography and story on U.S. Air Force veteran and long time Honolulu County FSA Committee member, Harry Choy. Mr. Choy recently completed his final term as a Honolulu County FSA Committee member after a length of service spanning over 25 years with only a 3 year break due to term length restrictions. Please join us in bidding a fond "Aloha and Mahalo!" to Mr. Harry Choy.

Reflecting upon his military service experience, Harry stated, "I was drafted into the U.S. Air Force in 1946 at the age of 24. Back then we could choose where we wanted to go if we signed up for 3 years, so I signed up for 3 years and chose Germany. A couple of my friends did the same, and we were lucky enough to be stationed together in Wiesbaden, Germany along with a few other locals from Hawaii." His most memorable experience was meeting and marrying his wife Peggy. They met in 1947 in Wiesbaden where Peggy was working as a British civilian for the U.S. Air Force. They were married by the town mayor after a brief courtship.



Harry retired from the service after his 3 year stint as a private first class, and returned to Hawaii with his wife in 1950. He found work as a civilian security police officer with the U.S. Navy and ended up working there for 36 years, retiring in 1986.

Harry and his wife started raising hogs in Waianae in 1955, and he has been active in the local livestock and agricultural community ever since. He has served as a member, director, and officer on a number of livestock agricultural cooperatives and associations. In 1955, he became a member of the Island Pork Producers Cooperative (later renamed to Hawaii Food Product's, Inc.). Harry has been a member and director since 1955. He even served as President for 5 years, and continues to work there to this day.

He has been a member of the Hawaii Farm Bureau since the early 50's serving as a director for many years, and was President of the West Oahu County Farm Bureau for over 10 years. He also serves as an officer with the Hawaii Pork Industry Association. At 88 years old, he remains an amazingly active individual with a sharp intellect and wit.

Harry was first elected to serve on the Honolulu County FSA Committee in 1986. "Back then the County Committee had more authority, especially in farm loans" he recalled. "We were more involved in programs. I miss the days when State and County Committees would travel to other counties for large meetings and conferences. We would visit farm operations and ranches, and could network with other County Committee members and agricultural producers." His fondest memories are meeting with and helping agricultural producers, County Committee members, and FSA staff over the years.

Aloha and Mahalo Harry for your long service and commitment to agriculture in Hawaii!



IRS 1099 Changes

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

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

For calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA were 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 FSA.

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, with payment equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and 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. In Hawaii, these crops are coffee, macadamia nuts, banana, papaya and nursery. Crop insurance is not available on crops in Guam, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands, and American Samoa.

For crops that are not covered by crop insurance, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage from FSA. The crop insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. In addition, for SURE payment the producer must have at least one (1) crop with a 10 percent production loss.

For more information on the 2011 SURE program, call your local FSA office for an appointment or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their purchases or sales of property to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers this program for the United States Department of Agriculture.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in past decades can file claims until 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 inform those who may be eligible for this program.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Deadline for Claims: March 25, 2013.

Claimants can obtain a claims package in the mail by calling 1-888-509-4429 or by visiting the website www.farmerclaims.gov.

Controlled Substance

Any person convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for United States Department of Agriculture payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should notify the county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office staff in person or by phone. This service is provided for office visits and any special event sponsored by FSA.



Farming Operation Changes

Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report those changes to the Farm Service



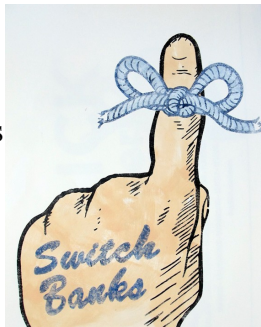
Agency (FSA) office as soon as possible. A copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchased property is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA. Failure to report changes can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. While making record updates, be sure to update signature authorizations. Making record changes now will save time later.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., Farm Service Agency (FSA) has a power of attorney form available that allows producers to designate another person to conduct business at the office. If interested, contact any FSA office for more information.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that Farm Service Agency (FSA) payments be electronically transferred into a bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office when an account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases the bank where payments are sent. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to bank accounts and bank routing numbers.



Appeal Process

After an Farm Service Agency (FSA) official makes a decision on a request for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) services or application, the producer will be sent a letter informing him/her of the decision and options that can be pursued.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency. County office staff has further details.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance



Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions is required. Farmers with HEL determined soils must comply with tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify Farm Service Agency (FSA) prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete for AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

For more information on Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, contact a FSA County Office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/.

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with Farm Service Agency (FSA) can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits.



The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office; and
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.

For additional clarification on proper signatures please contact your local FSA office for an appointment.



Beginning and Limited Resource Loans

Farm Service Agency (FSA) has targeted funds set-aside to assist beginning ethnic and racial minority, and female farmers. Targeted funds are available for both the direct and guaranteed loan programs. Farm Service Agency defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for 10 years or less;
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm;
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA; and
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements and loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information and loan applications are available at local FSA offices or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Guam County Office Has Moved

Visit them at the following location:

770 East Sunset Blvd, Suite 265
 Barrigada, Guam 96913
 Phone: (671)472-7568
 Fax: (671)472-7580
 CNMI (670)234-0896

Dates to Remember

January 31, 2013	Last day to apply for LDP for Unshorn Lamb pelts
February 18, 2013	Offices closed, Presidents Day Federal Holiday
March 13, 2013	Deadline to apply for emergency loans due to drought in 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
September 09, 2013	Deadline to apply for emergency loans due to drought in Hawaii County and Maui County
Ongoing	Hawaii CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) sign-up

Farm Loan Programs Interest Rates for January 2013

Farm Operating - Direct	1.250%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	2.250%
Limited Resource	5.000%



HAPPY NEW YEAR

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).