



Hawaii & Pacific Basin NEWSLETTER

Your Farm Service Agency Online Monthly Newsletter Covering the Latest Topics

In this Issue:

Page 1:

- Microloan Program
- IRS 1099-G Changes
- Honey Loans

Page 2:

- Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers
- Interest Rates for March 2013
- Hispanic & Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Process Deadline March 25

Page 3:

- Maui Nui Farm - A Diverse Operation with Deep Ties to Our Community
- 45th CRP General Sign-Up

Page 4:

- USDA Open House at the New Guam Service Center a Success
- Dates to Remember



Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

The Microloan program is designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process designed to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or who would like to discuss other available farm loan programs available, should contact the local FSA office to setup an appointment with a loan approval official.

IRS 1099-G Changes

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

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 received payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties was \$600 or more. The same changes will apply to those who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.



Honey Loans

Honey marketing assistance loans are available until April 1, 2013. The national loan rate for honey is \$0.69 per pound.

To be eligible for a loan, the producer must have produced honey in the United States during the calendar year for which the loan is requested, and extract the honey on or before December 31 of the applicable crop year; have continuous beneficial interest in the honey through date of repayment of the loan; and been responsible for the financial risk. Producers are responsible for maintaining the quality of farm-stored honey during the term of the loan.

The containers must be marked with the producer's name, type of honey, number of containers and net weight. Pre-loan inspections are required before the loans can be disbursed. Honey used as collateral may not be disposed of without approval of the county office staff.

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

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

Farm Service Agency (FSA) assists beginning ethnic and racial minority and female farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans.



(c) Larry Jones Illustration

Farm Service Agency defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

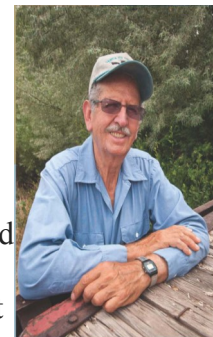
- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years;
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm;
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA;
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's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

Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farm Loan Programs Interest Rates for March 2013	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.250%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.25%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	2.250%
Limited Resource	5.0%
Microloan	1.250%

HWFRCP Claims Deadline March 25

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack reminds Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in past decades that the filing period will close March 25, 2013. Potential claimants are urged to contact the Claims Administrator for information and mail their claim packages on or before the deadline.



The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied his or her application 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.

Claimants may register for a claims package by calling the telephone number below Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time or by downloading the forms from the website.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

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

An independent adjudicator 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. Legal resources ready to assist nationwide can be found at www.nationalaglawcenter.org.



Kit Kalajakawan and Nui Mizel of Maui Nui Farm produce a diverse range of crops and likewise distribute and market in a diverse fashion.

Maui Nui Farm – A Diverse Operation with Deep Ties to our Community

Migrating from Thailand to Hawaii in the early 1990's, Sahatthaya "Nui" Mizel and her son, Kit Kalajakawan are now both recognized as master chefs on the Island of Maui. Each developed their skills under the guidance of Kit's grandmother. Kit continued to hone his culinary skills at Maui Community College and through work at several local restaurants. Today, Nui and Kit offer catering for parties, events and weddings as a means to economically diversify their already diverse vegetable and flower farm.

Maui Nui Farm is located in Kula, Maui and comprises a total of 40 acres. According to Nui, "The farm's upcountry location offers cooler temperatures, rich soil and regular rainfall to make it perfectly suited for growing healthy food. The farm grows such crops as lettuce, zucchini, squash, broccoli, bananas, papayas, strawberries, gold potatoes and flowers such as protea, tuberose, gardenias, heliconia and orchids."

With the wide range of great products being produced, Nui and Kit are able to host a farmers market at the farm on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday offering consumers an opportunity to purchase produce direct. Then on Tuesday the farm's produce is available at two commercial markets in the heart of Kahului where consumers can make purchases before or after work and while doing their errands in town. The balance of the crops go into catered meals for special occasions with menus ranging from Thai to Hawaiian to American cuisines. Rounding out the farm's operations are group tours that are available upon request.

Community is obviously important to Nui and Kit, as their community supports the financial well-being of the farm. They also recognize the need to give back to the community; thus for the past 19 years they have donated fresh produce to the Maui Food Bank, but for Nui and Kit at times community extends across the ocean and continent to the East Coast of the United States. Last fall when victims of Hurricane Sandy fell on hard times, Nui and Kit organized the Upcountry Cook-A-Thon fundraiser to support relief efforts. The event was hosted at Maui Nui Farm and featured various Maui chefs preparing ethnic dishes including Mexican, Filipino and Thai with all proceeds donated to the American Red Cross.

Nui and Kit's successes have come with hard work and lots of innovation. Nui noted, "Since 2002, we have worked closely with the Maui County Office of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to meet our financing needs for annual operating expenses and equipment purchases. Recently with help from FSA, we purchased a trailer that will allow for the expansion of the value-added processing of our fresh produce, with resulting happy customers and increase in sales. Working with FSA has allowed us to further diversify Maui Nui Farm and take advantage of successive new revenue generating opportunities."

45th CRP General Sign-Up

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. The Conservation Reserve Program protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation in setting aside and seeding land to provide significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years).

Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on September 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

For more information on CRP and other Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs, visit a local FSA Service Center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Open House at the New Guam Service Center a Success

Approximately 50 Guam producers came out for the USDA Service Center Open House on March

10th to hear about USDA programs and see the new Guam office, located at 770 East Sunset Boulevard, Suite 265 in Barrigada.

The USDA Service Center consists of the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development (RD). The Open House event was coordinated by Ilene Quitugua from the Farm Service Agency, Anton Tornito from NRCS and Christine Sablan from RD.

Agencies took the opportunity to inform new and existing producers about the various services and programs provided by the USDA Service Center in Guam.



Farm Loan Program Technician Doreen Rivera with the Open House Coordinators: FSA Program Technician Ilene Quitugua and Anton Tornito, NRCS and Christine Sablan, RD



Display boards with program information were displayed at the Open House

Dates to Remember	
March 25, 2013	Deadline to file a claim under the Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Process.
April 6, 2013	Local and Immigrant Farmer Workshop, Honolulu County FSA Information Booth
April 13, 2013	Kauai County Farm Bureau Garden Fair, Kauai County FSA Information Booth
April 19, 2013	Hawaii Community College 25th Annual Earth Day Fair 2013, Hawaii County FSA Information Booth
April 26-27, 2013	33rd Big Island Association of Nurserymen (BIAN) Annual Plant Sale, Hawaii County FSA Information Booth
May 9, 2013	Agricultural Awareness Day, Kauai County FSA Information Booth
May 27, 2013	Deadline to apply for emergency loans due to drought in Kauai County
June 7, 2013	2011 SURE Application deadline
September 9, 2013	Deadline to apply for emergency loans due to drought in Hawaii County and Maui County

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If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

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