



# Hawaii & Pacific Basin NEWSLETTER

August 2016



Your Farm Service Agency Online Monthly Newsletter Covering the Latest Topics

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## Youth Loans - Supporting Our Youth Now

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups.

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 \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (includes Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

The local [FSA County Office](#) is available to advise in the preparation of the required application.

## September 9th Deadline to Apply for Reimbursement of Transportation Cost Payment Program

Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently issued \$1.9 million in payments to agricultural producers enrolled in the 2015 Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program (RTCP) to help offset transportation costs for geographically disadvantaged producers.

The 2014 Farm Bill reauthorized the program allowing eligible farmers and ranchers in Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, as well as Alaska, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands to recover eligible transportation costs.

Payments are calculated based on the costs incurred for transportation of the agricultural commodity or inputs, subject to an \$8,000 limit per producer per federal fiscal year; however, with total claims exceeding available funds, payments to recipients were reduced by 0.6621465 percent.

Enrollment for fiscal year 2016 began July 18, 2016, and will end September 9, 2016. Applicants will have until November 2, 2016, to provide supporting documentation. Payments for fiscal year 2016 will be made once all supporting documentation has been reviewed and approved.

For more information contact your local [FSA County Office](#).

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154 Waiuanue Ave, Room 219 Hilo, HI 96720 Ph: (808)933-8381 x 1 Fax: (855)356-9492	Lester Ueda County Executive Director Linda Kow Farm Loan Manager
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<b>Office Hours: Monday—Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm</b>	
<b>Next County Committee Meeting Dates:</b>	
<u>Hawaii County</u> - October 14, 2016 at 8:00 am	
<u>Honolulu County</u> - October 21, 2016 at 3:00 pm	
<u>Kauai County</u> - September 13, 2016 at 9:00 am	
<u>Maui County</u> - August 25, 2016 at 8:30 am	
<u>Guam County</u> - August 24, 2016 at 9:00 am	
<u>CNMI County</u> - August 25, 2016 at 9:00 am	
Contact the County Office to confirm meeting date and time, as budget constraints may limit the County Committee's ability to meet each month. A list of County Offices, contact numbers and addresses may be found at: <a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/hi_cof_staff.pdf">http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/hi_cof_staff.pdf</a>	

## Guaranteed Conservation Loans

Guaranteed Conservation Loans are available for applicants to install a conservation practice. These funds may be used for any conservation activities included in a conservation plan or Forest Stewardship Management plan. A copy of the conservation plan is required to complete the application. These loans are not limited to just family farmers. In some cases, applicants can operate non-eligible enterprises. Loan funds are issued by a participating commercial lender and guaranteed up to 80 percent by Farm Service Agency or up to 90 percent for beginning and historically underserved producers.



Farm Service Agency (FSA) Loan Analysts (left to right) Faith Umetsu, Jennifer Balderas, Doreen Rivera and Letisha Gaoā met with Farm Loan Chief Steve Bazzell (center) and new Program Technician Darlene Gonzales (far right). The meeting allowed the loan analysts to prepare for a compulsory and comprehensive test, which they all passed with flying colors. Darlene Gonzales utilized the time to enhance her orientation of the work of FSA and to develop networks which will serve her well as working cross-county offices is essential to serving producers throughout the Pacific Basin.

## Emergency Loans Still Available in Multiple Counties

Earlier this year, Hawaii, Maui and Kauai counties were declared a primary disaster due to drought under the Secretarial Disaster Designation process; thus, producers with operations are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

The designation process issues a drought disaster declaration when a county has experienced a drought intensity value of at least a D2 (severe drought) level for eight consecutive weeks based on the U.S. Drought Monitor during the crop year.

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

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. Farm Service Agency (FSA) will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

The deadlines are as follows:

December 13, 2016 Hawaii County

December 20, 2016 Maui County

January 11, 2017 Kauai County

For more information about emergency loans, please contact your local [FSA County Office](#) or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

Interest Rates for August 2016	
Farm Operating Loans	2.250 %
Microloans	2.250 %
Farm Ownership Loans	3.375%
Farm Ownership Microloans	3.375%
Farm Ownership Loans Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50 %
Emergency Loans	3.250 %

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## Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions not covered by other agricultural disaster assistance programs.

Eligible livestock losses include grazing losses not covered under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, loss of purchased feed and/or mechanically harvested feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, additional cost of transporting water because of an eligible drought.

Eligible honeybee losses include loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, including Colony Collapse Disorder, and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

Eligible farm-raised fish losses include those in excess of normal mortality and/or loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event.

Producers who suffer eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016 must file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by November 1, 2016
- An application for payment by November 1, 2016

The Farm Bill caps ELAP disaster funding at \$20 million per federal fiscal year.

The following ELAP Fact Sheets are available online:

- [ELAP for Farm-Raised Fish Fact Sheet](#)
- [ELAP for Livestock Fact Sheet](#)
- [ELAP for Honeybees Fact Sheet](#)

For more information contact your local [FSA County Office](#).

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## Start A Retirement Plan Today

The U.S. Treasury's new *myRA.gov* can set you on a path to a retirement plan with no set up or annual fees. Visit [my.RA.gov](http://my.RA.gov) today to get started.

Dates to Remember	
September 1, 2016	NAP Insurance Deadline for Floriculture (Cut Flowers), Aquaculture and Christmas Tree
September 9, 2016	Deadline to sign-up for the 2016 Reimbursement of Transportation Cost Payment Program
November 2, 2016	Deadline to submit documentation for the 2016 Reimbursement of Transportation Cost Payment Program
November 7, 2016	County Committee Election Ballots will be mailed to eligible producers
December 1, 2016	NAP Insurance Deadline for Forage
December 5, 2016	Deadline to return County Committee Election Ballots
December 13, 2016	Deadline for Hawaii County producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to impacts of drought
December 20, 2016	Deadline for Maui County producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to impacts of drought
January 11, 2017	Deadline for Kauai County producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to impacts of drought

## FSA Offers Improved Program to Limit Losses on Forage

Reduced forage quality is now considered a production loss for weather disaster assistance coverage under the new buy-up provisions of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

This safety net is important for cattlemen who produce non-insurable forages for feeding livestock. Previously, FSA only considered a decrease in overall forage tonnage produced when determining if the producer suffered a compensable loss after a qualifying weather event. Under FSA's new NAP buy-up provisions, a decrease in forage quality – such as protein content – is also considered.

To receive coverage for the 2017 crop year, producers must enroll their eligible forage in NAP by December 1, 2016. Beginning, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers or ranchers are eligible for a waiver of the NAP service fee and a 50 percent premium reduction in buy-up provisions.

For more information on NAP, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/nap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nap) or contact your local [FSA County Office](#).

## Disaster Assistance for Ranchers

Hawaii, Maui and Kauai county ranchers are eligible to apply for 2016 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits to compensate for grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land.

Eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC-853 and provide supporting documentation no later than 30 calendar days after January 30, 2017. Losses must occur in the calendar year the application is being filed.

For additional information including types of eligible livestock, inquire at your [FSA County Office](#).

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