



# Hawaii & Pacific Basin NEWSLETTER



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## Hawaii County and Honolulu County Designated Drought Disaster Areas

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

The July 12, 2012, disaster designation makes all qualified farm operators on the islands of Hawaii and Oahu eligible for low interest emergency loans (EM) from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers have until March 12, 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>.

## Filing for NAP Losses

Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses.

For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, producers must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.



## Disaster Assistance

Crop and livestock producers who have experienced severe damage from natural disasters are reminded that Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs are available to assist with recovery.

A visit to the local FSA county office can help get a quick start in the recovery process. Fact sheets for disaster relief programs can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov), click on *Newsroom*, then *Fact Sheets*.

**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 Waiānuenuē Ave,  
Room 219  
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, Room 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 & CNMI  
FSA Office**

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

**American Samoa FSA**

Pago Plaza Bldg,  
Suite 213  
Pago Pago, AS 96799  
Ph: (684)633-1031 x 2  
Fax: (684)633-7614

**Hours**

Monday—Friday  
8:00 am—4:00 pm

**Website**

[www.fsa.usda.gov/hi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/hi)



## 2012 RTCP Program Signup

The Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program (RTCP) for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers provides payments intended to offset a portion of the costs of transporting agricultural inputs and products over long distances. The program, authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, assists farmers and ranchers in Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Alaska.

Benefits under RTCP are calculated based on the amount of costs incurred by the producer for transportation of the agricultural commodity or inputs purchased during a fiscal year, subject to an \$8,000 per producer cap per fiscal year.

Sign-up for fiscal year 2012 RTCP will begin on July 23, 2012 and will end on September 10, 2012. Applications must be filed with your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office.

Applicants will need to provide supporting documentation of actual costs for transportation of commodities and/or agricultural inputs to the FSA county office. Eligible receipts cover the period October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 and are due in the County office no later than November 5, 2012.

Applicants from the FSM, Palau, and the Marshall Islands shall file their applications through the Hawaii and Pacific Basin State FSA Office, 737 Bishop Street, Suite 2340, Honolulu, HI 96813. Application and other documents required may be obtained by calling toll free: 1-866-794-1079. Applicants must submit completed program documents during the announced sign-up period.

Late filed provisions will not apply to the RTCP Program for 2012. Applications received by mail after the application deadline date must have a postmark date no later than September 10, 2012 to be considered timely filed. Applications received after the deadline date will not be approved, including faxed applications.

For more information on the RTCP program, visit your local FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport).



**Retain Your Expense Receipts  
for RTCP from Oct. 01, 2011  
through Sept. 30, 2012**

## Crop Certification Deadline

The annual requirement of reporting to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification.

Form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs.



# NOMINATE NOW!

## County Committee Nominations

County committees (COC) play a crucial role in helping county office staff implement Farm Bill programs. Producers can participate in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the August 1, 2012, deadline.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more information about FSA county committee elections is available at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA669-A.PDF>.

This year elections will be held in the following Local Administrative Areas (LAA) in each county:

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

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.

Honolulu County - LAA#3 - West and Northshore of Oahu. Includes Waipahu, Ewa, Kunia, Wahiawa, Makakilo, Nanakuli, Waianae, Waialua and Mokuleia.

Kauai County - LAA#3 - Anahola, Aliomanu, Papaa, Moloaa and all of the Hanalei District.

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

CNMI - LAA#1 - Island of Rota

During their three-year terms, FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support programs and more. Nationwide, more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serve on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producer voters.

For more information contact your local FSA office.



## Loans for Women & Minorities

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or to purchase or improve farms or ranches.



While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided targeted funding for women and minorities. Applicants for targeted funds are still required to meet all loan eligibility and feasibility requirements. Contact your county office for more details. Eligible minority groups include Asians, Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and women.

Interest Rates for July 2012	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.25%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	2.25%
Limited Resource	5.000%

## Farm Reconstitutions

For Farm Service Agency (FSA) program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. To be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1st for farms enrolled in specific programs.

## Foreign Landowner Notification

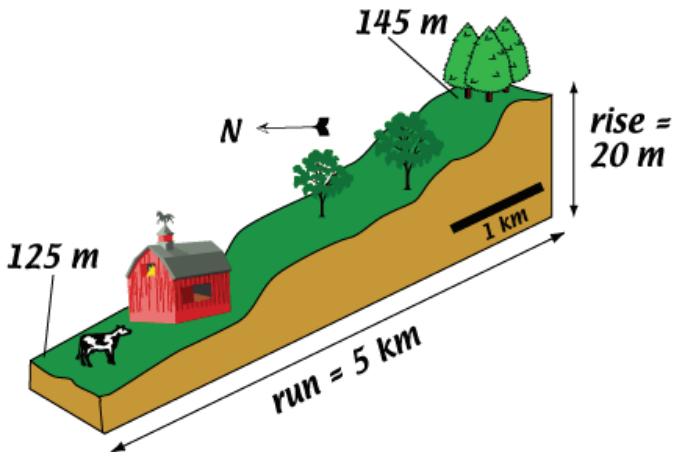
The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county to report the transaction to Farm Service Agency within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, and others involved in real estate transactions are advised to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

## Successor-In-Interest

Many Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in some programs must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. Farm Service Agency benefits are reported to the IRS and maintaining current, accurate participant records is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.



## Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain stipulations on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree, that they will not:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland; or
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.

Producers must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026 if they plan to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage. Farm Service Agency will notify NRCS who will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.

To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact the FSA office or the NRCS office at a local USDA Service Center. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation), and information on NRCS programs can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.



## MILC Program

Farm Service Agency's Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. Program payments are made when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt) as adjusted by the dairy feed ration adjustment. The monthly Boston price is posted online at: [http://www.fmmone.com/Northeast\\_Order\\_Prices/NE\\_Prices\\_main\\_new.htm](http://www.fmmone.com/Northeast_Order_Prices/NE_Prices_main_new.htm).

Eligible producers should submit the current MILC (Milk Income Loss Contract) statements for payment. Eligibility for 2012 must be completed before payments can be disbursed. Producers may contact the Farm Service Agency county office to check eligibility status. Producers new to the program are encouraged to apply before September 30, 2012.

## USDA Service Centers Participate in 2012 Feds Feed Families Food Drive

Hawaii and Pacific Basin Farm Service Agency offices are partnering with other United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Feds Feed Families Food Drive.



The Feds Feed Families Food Drive is a national effort that started in 2009 to help food banks and pantries stay stocked during the summer months. During the summer, food banks and pantries usually experience lower levels of donations and a higher demand for assistance. The food drive started on June 11<sup>th</sup> and ends on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

This year USDA was challenged to raise more than 1.8 million pounds of food to contribute to the national goal. Last year USDA employees donated 1.79 million pounds of the total 5.79 million pounds of food donated.

"In order to step up last year's efforts and meet our goal, we need help from the community," said Diane Ley, State Executive Director. "All donations received in the County offices will benefit the Food Bank of the individual county," she said.

If you would like to join the effort to fight hunger, there is a donation drop box at the following office locations:

Hawaii & Pacific Basin State Office	737 Bishop St, Suite 2340 Mauka Tower Honolulu, HI 96813
Hawaii County Office	154 Waiuanue Ave, Room 219 Hilo, HI 96720
Honolulu County Office	99-193 Aiea Heights Dr, Rm 114 Aiea, HI 96701
Kauai County Office	4334 Rice St, Room 102 Lihue, HI 96766
Maui County Office	77 Hookele St, Suite 201 Kahului, HI 967
Guam County Office	400 Route 8, Suite 306 Mongmong, Guam
American Samoa County Office	Pago Plaza Bldg, Suite 213 Pago Pago, AS

For more information on how you can participate in the Feds Feed Families Food Drive, contact Jill Lee in the Hawaii and Pacific Basin State Office at 808-441-2704 ext. 102 or contact your local FSA County office.

## Remembering a Fallen Veteran & Farmer

At first glance, Juan Pangelinan appeared to be a typical local farmer growing a variety of vegetables such as sweet potato, cucumbers, and peppers in Dededo, Guam. But take a deeper look and you'll learn that he was a U.S. Army veteran who served in the Korean War and was a resilient farmer who overcame losses from natural disasters through the use of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs.

In June 2002, Typhoon Chata'an hit Guam and devastated Mr. Pangelinan's farm operation. Despite the difficulties he faced, he maintained his passion for farming and applied for an emergency loan with FSA. Armed with the emergency loan, he was able to get his farm operation back on track. Shortly thereafter fate dealt another cruel blow. In December 2002, Super Typhoon Pongsona wreaked havoc across the Mariana islands ravaging farm operations and crops in its wake.

With devastating losses from successive typhoons and an emergency loan to repay, Mr. Pangelinan felt like his back was against the wall. Rather than throw in the towel, he turned again to FSA and received much needed assistance through the Crop Disaster Assistance Program. This led him to the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, which provides coverage similar to crop insurance. Through hard work, determination, and participation in FSA programs, Mr. Pangelinan was able to weather the "storm" of farming.

Sadly, Juan Pangelinan passed away in May 2012, while this article was being written. The Guam County Farm Service Agency Office staff extends their deepest sympathies to the Pangelinan family. Juan Pangelinan was a testament to farming resiliency in Guam.





**Veteran's Administration Pacific Islands Health Care Systems in Honolulu**



**Honoring Veterans - Connie Laumann Hawaii and Pacific Basin State office**

Connie Laumann and her husband Loel, a disabled Vietnam Army Veteran, moved from Minnesota to Hawaii eight years ago. Connie is an Agricultural Program Specialist with the Hawaii and Pacific Basin Farm Service Agency (FSA). She and her husband Loel still own their 160 acre family farm in Minnesota which they farmed together for over 30 years. The farm is currently run by their son, Daniel. The Farm Service Agency has always been a large part of their lives. Connie has worked for FSA for the last 24 years and Loel has participated in Agency programs since he began farming.

Loel Laumann was drafted by the United States Army and was eventually sent to Vietnam. He served with the 25th Infantry Division, 2nd of the 35th which is stationed in Hawaii. Because of his service connected disability, Loel regularly visits the Veterans Administration Pacific Islands Health Care Systems in Honolulu, commonly known as the VA.

Connie takes advantage of an optional FSA flexible work schedule which allows her to work four days a week, 10 hours a day. On her day off Connie volunteers at the Honolulu VA helping with a music class for the veterans and also maintaining computer files for the Volunteer office. Perhaps her most valuable

contribution is her willingness to listen or just visit with veterans who are afflicted with the lasting psychological aftermath of serving in battle.

“I volunteer because of the Veterans, those here at the VA and those that have served or are currently serving our country,” Connie stated. “My husband, along with all veterans, gave and continue to give so much that I wanted to volunteer and perhaps give a little something back to them.”

**Sign Up for FSA Fence Post**

The Fence Post is an online newsletter for the Farm Service Agency. It contains articles of interest on the agency’s programs and departments, as well as success stories from across the nation. To access the Fence Post visit: <http://fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com/>.

Producers can sign up for weekly Fence Post updates by putting an email address in box that says “Get Email Updates.”



Dates to Remember	
July 19	COC Teleconference, Maui County
July 23	Sign up for Reimbursement of Transportation Cost Program Begins
July 26	Hawaii MIDPAC Horticultural Expo, Hawaii County, Imiloa Astronomy Center
Aug. 1	Deadline to file nominations for County Committee Election
Ongoing	Hawaii CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) Signup

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