

March 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

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## SED's Comments

Aloha, Talofa, Hafadai,

Because of upcoming software enhancements that will allow producers to have real-time access to Farm Program and Farm Loan information, I'd like to strongly encourage all FSA customers to establish *on-line Level 2 access accounts* with USDA to facilitate easier application submissions and verification of information and program requirements. The time producers take now to establish access to our on-line systems will save everyone time and eliminate confusion when applying for current and future programs. Signing up now will help streamline applications, save time later and allow us to pay claims quicker. Enrolling is easy! To sign up for eAuthentication Level 2 Access producers need to:

- Step 1: Create an online account at [www.eauth.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.usda.gov), select "Create an Account".
- Step 2: Select either "Register for a Level 2 Account" or "Log into Your Profile" to change from Level 1 Access to Level 2 Access.
- Step 3: Complete identity verification by either using the online self-service identity verification method or by completing the identity verification in-person at your USDA Service Center.
- Step 4: You're enrolled

As a reminder, RMA insurance deadlines for Papaya and Banana are quickly approaching. Papaya, Banana, and Coffee crops qualify for commercial insurance coverage and are no longer covered by

FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA), created in 1996, serves America's agricultural producers through effective, market-based risk management tools to strengthen the economic stability of agricultural producers and rural communities. RMA is committed to increasing the availability and effectiveness of Federal crop insurance as a risk management tool.

RMA deadlines are approaching for:

- Papaya and Banana Fruit Coverage (May 31)
- Change coverage level for existing Wholesale Nursery policyholders (May 31). However, new Wholesale Nursery applications can be taken on an ongoing basis.  
<https://www.rma.usda.gov/en/Topics/Insurance-Resources>

Check out the [Risk Management Agency's website](https://www.rma.usda.gov) for more information on valuable risk management tools available in the State of Hawaii. (<https://www.rma.usda.gov>)

AL Frenzel, State Executive Director  
USDA Farm Service Agency Hawaii & Pacific Basin

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## Hawaii & Pacific Basin FSA State Office

PJKK Federal Building  
P.O. Box 50065  
300 Ala Moana Blvd, Rm 5-108  
Honolulu, HI 96850

Phone: 808-541-2600 x 2  
FAX: 855-356-9493

**State Executive Director:**  
AL Frenzel

**Acting Chief Program Specialist:**  
Kristen Kiriu

**Chief, Farm Loan Program:**  
Theresa Correa

**Upcoming County Committee Meetings:**

Hawaii County Committee  
April 12, 2019 at 8:30am

Honolulu County Committee  
April 19, 2019 at 3:00pm

Maui County Committee  
March 21, 2019 at 8:30 am

## Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers

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 priority funding for members of targeted underserved applicants.

A targeted underserved applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

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## Acres Reporting Dates

In order to comply with Farm Service Agency (FSA) program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their FSA County Office to file an accurate crop certification report by the following deadlines:

January 2 - Honey

Kauai County Committee  
April 17, 2019 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.

[Click here for a list of County Offices, contact numbers and addresses.](#)

**Website for Hawaii and Pacific Basin FSA:**

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

March 15 - Coffee

March 31 - All other non-insurable crops covered by Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program not listed in this table. Acreage reporting date is by March 31 of the subsequent crop year.

May 31 - Nursery for the ensuing crop year

July 15 - Banana, Papaya, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

September 30 - Aquaculture, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Turfgrass Sod for the ensuing year

December 16 - Grazed Forage - 15 days before the onset of grazing

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local County FSA office.

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## Filing a Notice of Loss

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), you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.

Producers of hand-harvested crops must notify FSA of damage or loss through the administrative County Office within 72 hours of the date of damage or loss first becomes apparent. This notification can be provided by filing a CCC-576, email, fax or phone. Producers who notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the CCC-576 are still required to file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within the required 15 calendar days.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

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## Payment Limitations by Program

The 2014 Farm Bill established a maximum dollar amount for each program that can be received annually, directly or indirectly, by each person or legal entity. Payment limitations vary by program for 2014 through 2018.

Below is an overview of payment limitations by program.

**Conservation Programs** The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payment and incentive payment is limited to \$50,000. CRP contracts approved before Oct. 1, 2008, may exceed the limitation, subject to payment limitation rules in effect on the date of contract approval.

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) has an annual limit of \$200,000 per disaster event. The Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) has an annual limit of \$500,000 per disaster event.

### Disaster Assistance Programs – 2017 & Subsequent Years

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) have a \$125,000 per person and legal entity single payment limitation that applies to the total amount of program year payments received.

Program payments under the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Tree Assistance Program (TAP) no longer have payment limits.

Payment limitations also apply to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs. Contact your local NRCS office more information.

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## March 2019 Interest Rates

00Farm Operating Loans - 3.500%  
Farm Operating Microloans – 3.500%  
Farm Ownership Loans – 4.000%  
Farm Ownership Microloans- 4.000%  
Farm Ownership Loans Direct Down Payment for Beginning Farmer or Rancher - 1.50  
Emergency Loans – 3.75

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## FSA Hawaii & Pacific Basin State Committee

Teena Marie Rasmussen, Chairperson  
Wilson Kenzo Koike  
Glenn Martinez  
Boyd J. Ready  
Simon Russell

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## Sign Up Today for Text Alerts from FSA

*Subscribers Can Receive Important Program Reminders and Updates*

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) farmers and ranchers now can receive notifications from their county office through text messages on their cell phone.

Whether producers are in the field, on a tractor or even on horseback, this service enables FSA customers and stakeholders to receive notifications while on the go. Producers will receive text

messages regarding important program deadlines, reporting requirements, outreach events and updates.

Producers can text the **short codes** below to FSANOW (372-669) to subscribe to text message alerts from their respective counties. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.

Hawaii County : **HPBHawaii**  
Honolulu County: **HPBHonolulu**  
Kauai County: **HPBKauai**  
Maui County: **HPBMaui**

Please contact your [local FSA office](#) if you have questions regarding FSA's email news service or the text message option.

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Kauai County: **HPBKauai**  
Maui County: **HPBMaui**

Please contact your [local FSA office](#) if you have questions regarding FSA's email news service or the text message option.

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## Hawaii County Mailing Address Update

Please send correspondence to the following address:

Hawaii County FSA  
P O Box 845  
Hilo, HI 96721

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

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