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2015 County Committee Election Results
The 2015 Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee (COC) elections were held earlier this month; now, it is time to meet the new and renewing County Committee members. They include:

Guam County – Teddy Lee Concepcion has produced livestock for 35 years. Ted is an active member of the Steering Committee for the Guam Livestock Association.

Commonwealth Islands of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) – James Manglona has produced crops and livestock for 20 years. James is a former director of the Rota Soil and Water Conservation District and has served as a Vice Chairperson and member. This is his second term on the CNMI COC.

Hawaii County – Charlie Onaka and his wife Gwen operate a cattle ranch and coffee farm in West Hawaii. Charlie was elected again to serve on the Hawaii COC. He served previously from 2004-2012. Charlie says, “The committee is an important aspect of FSA and an excellent opportunity for producer input.”

Honolulu County – Patsy Oshiro and her husband have operated a hog farm in Waianae for over 20 years. Patsy grew up on a Manoa lettuce farm in Waianae. She is an active member of the National Pork Producers Council through the Hawaii Pork Industry Association, and serves as the Hawaii State contact to the National Pork Board.

COC Election Results
Maui County – Paul Lopes is a livestock operator from Haiku and has served as a COC member since 2013.

Kauai County – Dickie Yoshii has been farming since 1974 cultivating banana, papaya, mango, dragon fruit, lychee, longan, and other fruits. Dickie has been actively participating in FSA programs and services since early on in his agricultural career.

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions regarding FSA disaster, conservation and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues.

County committee members are a valuable asset because they are comprised of local producers who participate in FSA programs themselves and have a direct connection to farmers and ranchers in the community.

Recently elected county committee members will begin their term on January 1, 2016, joining the existing committee members. For more information about county committees and the election process, please contact your local FSA Office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

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Looking for great ideas to expand your market; want to how to collaborate with your neighboring farmers and ranchers; need resources to make it happen? Visit: www.knowyourfarmer@usda.gov!
Maui and Kauai Ranchers May Apply for Disaster Assistance

Maui and Kauai county ranchers are eligible to apply for 2015 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits to compensate for grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land.

For 2015 and subsequent years, eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year (January 30, 2016) in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur in the calendar year the application is being filed.

Additional information about LFP, including eligible livestock, is available at your FSA County Office or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather including hurricanes, floods, wildfires and extreme heat or cold.

For 2015, eligible losses must occur on or after January 1, 2015 and before December 31, 2015. A notice of loss must be filed with Farm Service Agency (FSA) within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent.

Producers must provide the following supporting documentation to their FSA County Office no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year for which benefits are requested:

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of growers contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation

Normal mortality rates are established for each type and weight range of eligible livestock reflecting losses that are considered expected or typical under “normal” conditions. Producers who suffer livestock losses in 2015 must file both of the following:

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

Additional Information about LIP is available at your local FSA County Office or online at www.fsa.usda.gov.
Emergency Loans Available in Multiple Counties

Last summer severe weather wreaked havoc on producers in Hawaii and the Pacific Basin resulting in damages to farms and ranches in Hawaii County from flash flooding that occurred August 24 through September 27, 2015. In response, Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) Administrator Val Dolcini issued an Administrator’s Physical Loss Notification which triggered the availability of low interest Emergency Loans.

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

Producers have eight months or until June 5, 2016 to apply for emergency loan assistance. Farm Service Agency 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.

Recent natural disasters triggered the availability of emergency loans as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County &amp; Natural Disaster</th>
<th>Declaration Trigger</th>
<th>Deadline to Apply</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guam County Typhoon Dolphin</td>
<td>Presidential Disaster Declaration</td>
<td>February 5, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saipan &amp; Tinian Typhoon Soudelor</td>
<td>Presidential Disaster Declaration</td>
<td>April 5, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maui and Kauai Counties – Drought</td>
<td>Secretarial Disaster Designation</td>
<td>April 19, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii County Flash Flooding</td>
<td>Administrator’s Physical Loss Notification</td>
<td>June 5, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Acreage 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Crop Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Honey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>All other noninsurable crops covered by Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program not listed in this table. Acreage reporting date is by March 31 of the subsequent crop year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Nursery for the ensuing crop year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Banana, Papaya, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Aquaculture, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Turfgrass Sod for the ensuing year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Grazed Forage - 15 days before the onset of grazing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FSA Job Vacancies in American Samoa and Hawaii Counties

Farm Service Agency (FSA) currently is advertising to fill the following job vacancies:


Back For the Holidays - Breakfast Taro

_Hawaii County Committee Member Aileen Yeh shares one of her favorite recipes for taro._

Select the amount of taro corms desired. Chinese taro is a good choice for this recipe.

Boil the taro corms until a knife passes easily through. Pour off water from taro and allow to cool before peeling the outer skin off the taro. Allow to cool further then grate the taro over a bowl.

Mix in enough milk or cream to create a moldable texture, and add enough sugar to make it slightly sweet, if desired.

On a sheet of plastic wrap or foil, roll the mixture into a log about 2.5 to 3 inches in diameter and about 8 inches long. Wrap in the plastic wrap, and add an outer wrap of foil to hold the shape.

Refrigerate overnight or until cold. Slice into patties, and fry in butter until crisp and browned, and serve. If there are leftovers, keep refrigerated or freeze. Enjoy!

NASS & HDOA Job Vacancies

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) have posted job vacancy announcement for the following positions in Honolulu County:

- **NASS/HDOA Temporary Employee** (89-day hire with possible 89-day extension). Math and writing skills required to edit surveys and write releases; no difficult computations required. Position available now. For an application call 808-522-8080.

- **NASS Agriculture Research Enumerator**; Part-Time/Intermittent hire. Auto and valid driver’s license required; mileage paid. For an application call 808-262-5876.

### Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 30, 2016</td>
<td>Deadline for Maui and Kauai ranchers to apply for 2015 Livestock For-age Disaster Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 5, 2016</td>
<td>Deadline for Guam County producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to impacts from Typhoon Dolphin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5, 2016</td>
<td>Deadline for Saipan and Tinian producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to impacts from Typhoon Soudelor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19, 2016</td>
<td>Deadline for Maui and Kauai County producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to impacts of drought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 5, 2016</td>
<td>Deadline for Hawaii County producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to flooding that occurred between August 24-September 27, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program sign-up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Happy Holidays

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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).