



Your Farm Service Agency Online Monthly Newsletter Covering the Latest Topics

In this Issue:

Page 1:

As Conferees Convene, Priorities for a Farm Bill – A Message from Agriculture Secretary Vilsack

Page 2:

**FSA Makes Payments
FSA Signature Policy**

Page 3:

Making the Best Better through 4-H and FSA Youth Loans

Changing Banks

Page 4:

Your County Committee Nominees

Page 5:

Deadline to Provide Documentation for the 2013 RTCP Program is Nov. 22, 2013

Dates to Remember

Micro Loan Program

Farm Loan Rates

Selling Land

Page 6

Got NAP?

Farm Service Agency Website:

www.fsa.usda.gov/hi

As Conferees Convene, Priorities for a Farm Bill – A Message from Agriculture Secretary Vilsack



While rural Americans have already waited too long for passage of a new Food, Farm and Jobs bill, this week brought a promising new development. Conferees from the Senate and House met to begin work on the creation of a bipartisan, long-term Farm Bill. Their work could not be more timely – and they are in the spotlight now more than ever before.

The Farm Bill is crucial to America’s farmers, ranchers and producers. It provides a necessary safety net for producers centered around a strong crop insurance program and a dependable set of disaster assistance programs. The last two years of drought and other weather-related disasters underscores how important that safety net is to keeping producers in business.

The Farm Bill’s importance extends beyond the farm safety net. It’s a research bill that continues our long history of agricultural innovation. The Senate-passed Farm Bill would authorize a new, non-profit research foundation, allowing the USDA to more effectively leverage millions of dollars in private investment toward agricultural research.

The Farm Bill is a conservation bill that would support a record number of producers who are investing in efforts to conserve our soil, water and air; while also

combating the impacts of a changing climate.

The Farm Bill is a trade promotion bill that would assist our farmers and ranchers to export a record amount of product around the world. A new Farm Bill, by resolving a trade dispute with Brazil over cotton supports, would avoid up to \$850 million in retaliatory measures that Brazil is authorized to levy against a wide range of American goods and services.

The Farm Bill is a job creation bill that would empower USDA to partner with rural communities to grow, expand and support new businesses, including new opportunities in bio-based product manufacturing and renewable energy.

The Farm Bill is a deficit reduction bill that would reform the farm safety net – replacing direct payments with a program that provides farmers help when they need it and saves billions of dollars.

The Farm Bill is a nutrition bill that would adequately protect those among us who need help putting good food on the table – an effort that is critical for millions of hardworking families, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and returning veterans.

The Farm Bill truly impacts every American. It’s no surprise to me that over the course of this fall, President Obama has identified passage of a comprehensive Food, Farm and Jobs Bill as one of his top three legislative priorities. Congress has a crucial opportunity to grow the economy, create jobs and reduce the deficit by working out a compromise and getting this legislation done.

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Office Hours: Monday—Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm	
Next County Committee Meeting Dates:	
<u>Hawaii County</u> - Pending	
<u>Honolulu County</u> - December 20 at 3:00 p.m.	
<u>Kauai County</u> - November 20 at 8:30 a.m.	
<u>Maui County</u> - November 21 at 9:00 a.m.	
<u>Guam County</u> - December 16 at 9:00 a.m.	
<u>CNMI County</u> - December 16 at 9:00 a.m.	
Contact the County Office to confirm the 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: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/hi_cof_staff.pdf	

A Message from Agriculture Secretary Vilsack (continued...)

The President believes that no political party has a monopoly on good ideas and he looks forward to working with Democrats and Republicans to get this done. For decades, the Farm Bill has stood as a model of such bipartisan consensus – and I urge conferees from the House and Senate to follow this tradition and move forward a comprehensive Food, Farm and Jobs Bill as rapidly as possible.

FSA Makes Payments

Farm Service Agency (FSA) has started issuing Conservation Reserve Program/Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CRP/CREP) annual rental payments to participants across the country. These payments were delayed by several weeks due to the lapse in Federal funding at the end of September.

The 2008 Farm Bill, extended by the American Tax Payer Relief Act of 2012, provided authority to enroll land in CRP/CREP through September 30, 2013; however, no legislation has been enacted to reauthorize or extend this authority.

Effective October 1, 2013, FSA does not currently have legislative authority to approve or process applications for the Hawaii CREP program. Contact your local county FSA office for more information on the program.

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with Farm Service Agency (FSA) can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits.



The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office.
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

Making the Best Better through 4-H and FSA Youth Loans

Matthew Kawamura, 18, has experienced both success and unmatched opportunity through his participation in 4-H. He began by raising his first pig at the age of 6 as a member of the 4-H Clover Bud Club. Matthew's interest in 4-H was sparked by his older brother and sister who were already successful members of the Kauai 4-H Livestock Club. 4-H runs deep within the history of the Kawamura family as both his father and uncle raised many animals for the Kauai County Farm Bureau Fairs (KCFBF) between the late 70s and early 80s.

During his 12 years as a 4-H member, Matthew has received a number of awards at both the KCFBF and Hawaii State Farm Fair (HSFF), including Grand Champion Showmanship and Reserve Champion Showmanship for his various lamb and steer projects, and awards for Carcass Evaluation. Through his experiences in 4-H Matthew has learned the importance of time management, hard work, communication, and persistence. These skills and others have helped him to become a leader and allowed him to discover his love for assisting others and to mentor younger 4-H members.



Matthew Kawamura with "Curly" at the ranch. Matt and "Curly" took the Grand Championship Showmanship and Live awards at the Kauai County Farm Bureau Fair this year.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) Youth loan program assisted Matthew by covering the expenses involved with raising his show animals. This provided him with the opportunity to learn the fiscal side of "what it takes" to operate a business at an early age. He learned valuable lessons in money management, staying within budget and tracking all of his expenditures. He also assured that his animals were ready to show at the right

market weight to yield him the best possible profit. Matthew obtained his own checking and savings account, through which he managed all of his loan payments. By successfully paying off three youth loans, Matthew established a good financial credit history, which is something many students his age lack, or are simply unaware of.

Thanks to the profits from his multiple 4-H projects, Matthew was able to attend two 4-H National Conferences held in Atlanta and Washington DC, and met other 4-H members from across the United States. "I met Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack and was able to personally meet Senator Daniel Akaka, Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, and Congresswoman Mazie Hirono," Matthew states. "I strongly recommend 4-H to other youth due to the life skills they can learn and the financial benefits they can obtain through a FSA youth loan."

Matthew has kept very busy since graduating from Kauai High School in June. He is currently enrolled as a full-time student at the Kauai Community College thanks to the financial support provided by his multiple 4-H projects. He is still involved with 4-H as a junior leader for the Garden Island 4-H Ranchers Club where he assists youth with perfecting their showmanship skills.

"I want to personally thank those who have been very supportive of me, teaching me to be responsible through my 4-H projects and through the family business and encouraging me to take on leadership roles in 4-H." Matthew continues, "I also want to thank the FSA Staff on Oahu and Kauai, especially loan officer, T.J. Nii, and Program Technician, Mary Pigao, for their assistance in helping me with my youth loans."

Farm Service Agency wishes Matthew all the best in his future endeavors.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency (FSA) payments are made electronically using direct deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Your County Committee Nominees



Every year in each county, an election takes place to select a representative to serve on the Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee (COC) for the next three years. The elections take place in rotation of specified Local Administrative Area (LAA); thus, ensuring continuity of the COC while allowing for transition of new producer representation when determined by the electorate.

If you are a producer within an LAA with an upcoming election, now is the time to familiarize yourself with the candidates(s) for this year's FSA COC election. Following is a list, by county and LAA, for the nominees and their background:

Hawaii County – LAA #3 - Hamakua and Waiakea Tax Map Zones 2, 3, and 4

- Brenda Deluz-Campbell resides in Paauilo. She has been ranching with her family throughout her childhood up through the present time and is part owner of Kaapahu Land and Cattle Company. Brenda has served on the FSA Hawaii County Committee for the past three years willing to serve if re-elected.
- Grant Tolleth resides in Makai Kolopa and has raised cattle and goats, along with white pineapple and various vegetables since 2001. Previously he raised hogs, goats and chickens in Washington state and is a retired Keck Electronics engineer (10 years) and Boeing software engineer (20 years). He is very interested in protecting and promoting Hawaii farms and ranches. Grant is willing to serve if elected, and noted he has lots of time to devote to the committee and will bring a very analytical view to the process.
- Minh Voss is a member/manager of Crown Pacific International, LLC in Hilo, Hawaii. She has grown and helped many farmers with Okinawan purple sweet potatoes and white organic ginger and pioneered export of both to the mainland. She is also the President of the Vietnam Orphanage Scholarship Foundation. If elected, Minh is willing to serve on the Hawaii County committee.

Maui County – LAA #3 - Islands of Molokai and Lanai

- Lynn DeCoite is a sweet potato farmer and rancher on Molokai. She has served on the FSA Maui

County Committee since January 2008 and she is currently the Committee Chairperson. Lynn is willing to serve if elected.

Honolulu County – LAA #1 - Waimanalo, Hawaii Kai, Honolulu, and Pearl City

- Wayne Shimokawa operates a hog farm partnership operation in Waimanalo. He currently serves as the Chairperson for the FSA Honolulu County Committee. Wayne is willing to serve if elected.

Kauai County – LAA #2 - Kamalomalo, Kealia, Kapaa, Waipouli, North and South Oloheua; Tax Map Key Districts (4) 4 - 1 through (4) 4 - 7

- Lincoln Y. T. Ching has been a member of the Kauai Cattlemen's Association and Hawaii Farm Bureau for over 30 years, and was a member of the Hawaii Association of County Extension Agents for over 30 years before retiring. If elected Lincoln is willing to serve on the FSA Kauai County Committee.
- Theresa M. Gordines and her husband John have been operating a floriculture nursery business in Kapaa Homesteads on the island of Kauai for the past 20 years. They are vendors at three farmers markets, and are charter members of the "Kauai Grown" and "Kauai Made" programs. Theresa is also a 25 year charter member of the Hawaii Tropical Flowers and Foliage Association-Kauai, as well as a member of the Hawaii Tropical Flower Council and the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. She has been an active member of the Kauai County Farm Bureau for the past 15 years. If elected Theresa is willing to serve on the FSA Kauai County Committee.

Guam County – LAA #1 - Yona (north of Route 17), Apra Heights, Piti, Asan, Ordot, Chalan Pago, Mangilao, Barrigada, Barrigada Heights, Sinajana, Agana, Agana Heights, Maina, Mongmong-Toto-Maite, Tamuning-Tumon-Harmon, Dededo (south of Ysengsong Road)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

LAA #2 - Island of Saipan

- Isidoro T. Cabrera is the president and owner of I.T.C. Agricultural Consulting Service and he is also the owner of ITC & Sons Hydroponics Farm. Sid started his career in the agriculture field as an agriculturist and extension agent for the Department of Natural Resources and later transferred to NMC CREES when the college became a land grant institution. After his retirement from CNMI government, Sid maintained his relationship with

County Committee Nominees (continued) **Microloan Program**

NMC CREES and assisted farmers and ranchers in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in all aspects of general tropical agriculture production. Sid is active in Saipan & Northern Islands Soil & Water Conservation District, Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market, Inetnon Amot Natibu (Traditional Medicine Association), and the Saipan Agriculture Fair Association. Sid is willing to serve if elected.

- Lucia Norita-Shilling moved to Saipan in 2006 to concentrate on the farm where she had bananas, papayas, and bettlenuts. She planted hot peppers and assorted local fruits and is currently concentrating on high value added products such as dragon fruits and a variety of vegetables; she is also bottling hot peppers. Lucia volunteers with the Department of Youth Service, providing training for parents and Head Start teachers, and also serves on the Salvation Army advisory board as the Chairwomen. If elected, Lucia is willing to serve.

Deadline to Provide Supporting Documentation for the 2013 RTCP Program is November 22, 2013

Producers who filed a timely application with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for the 2013 Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (RTCP) have until November 22, 2013 to bring their supporting receipts and documentation to the FSA office.

Documentation must reflect actual transportation costs incurred for the period of October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013 and may include but is not limited to seed, fertilizer, chemical, boxes, fencing material, tractors, tillers, irrigation equipment, hogs and cattle.

The RTCP program is intended to offset a portion of the high costs of transporting inputs and commodities over long distances.

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 22	2013 RTCP Expense Invoice Deadline
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Federal Holiday
Dec. 1	Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Application for Coverage
Dec. 25	Christmas Federal Holiday
Jan. 01	New Years Federal Holiday

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

Farm Service Agency offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built 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 to extend the growing season, 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.

Farm Loan Programs Interest Rates	
Farm Operating Loans- Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership Loans- Direct	4.25%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership- Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher Loans	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.125%
Microloans	2.125%

Selling Land

If you plan on selling farmland, you should be aware of several consequences associated with Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs. For example, if you are planning to sell land that is enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program/Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CRP/CREP), the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer does not want to continue the CRP/CREP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you have received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.



Got NAP?

Producers in Hawaii and Pacific Basin who 'Got NAP' received \$4.6 million in assistance in 2013.

People buy insurance and hope they never have to use it. However, when it is needed, insurance can be a “life saver.” The Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers the noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) to provide agricultural assistance on crops, including forage, for which there is no commercial insurance.

In 2013, Hawaii and Pacific Basin producers suffered weather-related crop losses, and FSA helped them to recover by providing financial assistance through the NAP program. A total of \$4.6 million dollars was paid to those producers who had enrolled their crops prior to the loss.

The NAP program requires advance enrollment. The sales closing dates are listed in the table below. Although the closing deadline has passed for some crops, there is still time to sign up for grazed forage, fruits and vegetables, and other non-insurable crops covered by NAP. Inquire at your local FSA office for sales closing dates of specific crops for which you wish to purchase NAP coverage.

Crop	Application Closing Date	Acreage Reporting Date	Production Reporting Date	NAP Coverage Period
Aquaculture	September 1 st	September 30 th for the ensuing crop year		October 1 to September 30
Floriculture	September 1 st	September 30 th for the ensuing crop year	Maintain monthly inventory reports	October 1 to September 30
Ginseng, Mushrooms	September 1 st	September 30 th for the ensuing crop year	Maintain monthly inventory reports	October 1 to September 30
Nursery	September 1 st	May 31 for the ensuing crop year		June 1 to May 31
Turfgrass Sod	September 1 st	September 30 th for the ensuing crop year		October 1 to September 30
Grazed Forage	December 1 st	By December 16, (15 days before onset of grazing)		January 1 to December 31
Honey	December 1 st	January 2 of the crop year ending December 31	January 2 of the following crop year	January 1 to December 31
All other non-insurable crops covered by NAP	December 1 st	By March 31 of the subsequent crop year	March 31 of the subsequent crop year	January 1 to December 31

Coverage under the NAP program does not begin until 30 days after your application is filed and the administrative fee has been paid. To be eligible for NAP, a producer shall pay a nonrefundable service fee in an amount that is equal to the lesser of \$250 per crop, per administrative county; or \$750 per producer, per administrative county, and not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for multiple county producers. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of NAP fees; check with your local FSA office for more information.

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).