



Hawaii & Pacific Basin NEWSLETTER

December 2013



Your Farm Service Agency Online Monthly Newsletter Covering the Latest Topics

ISLAND
VOTE 2013

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**Farm Service Agency
Website:**

www.fsa.usda.gov/hi

New County Committee Election Ballots to be Mailed



The County Committee Election ballots that were mailed to producers on November 4 were incorrectly printed with the producer's name and address on the back of the ballot. County committee elections must use a secret ballot so the misprinted ballots cannot be used. Please destroy or recycle the misprinted ballot. If you have already voted, your ballot will be destroyed unopened.

New ballots will be mailed to producers on December 20, 2013. These ballots will indicate that they are the corrected ballot in several places, including on the outside of the mailing, on the ballot and on the outside of the return envelope.

The corrected ballot must be returned to the County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office or postmarked by January 17, 2014. All newly elected county committee members will take office February 18, 2014. All county committee members whose term expires on December 31, 2013, will have their term extended to January 31, 2014.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of

FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and United States Department of Agriculture. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. Farm Service Agency committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote.

The candidates in this year's election are:

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 and is 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

Hawaii State & Pacific Basin Farm Service Agency Office	
737 Bishop St, Suite 2390 Honolulu, HI 96813 Ph: (808)441-2704 Fax: (808)441-2705	Diane Ley State Executive Director Steve Bazzell Farm Program Loan Chief
Hawaii County Farm Service Agency Hilo Office	
154 Waiuanue Ave, Room 219 Hilo, HI 96720 Ph: (808)933-8381 x 1 Fax: (808)933-8345	Lester Ueda County Executive Director Miki Miyasato Farm Loan Manager
Honolulu County Farm Service Agency Office	
99-193 Aiea Heights Dr, Room 114 Aiea, HI 96701 Ph: (808)483-8600 x 2 Fax: (808)483-8615	Jason Shitanishi County Executive Director Melissa Rodriques Farm Loan Manager
Kauai County Farm Service Agency Office	
4334 Rice St, Suite 103 Lihue, HI 96766 Ph: (808)245-9014 x 2 Fax: (808)246-4639	Robert Ishikawa County Executive Director Melissa Rodriques Farm Loan Manager
Maui County Farm Service Agency Office	
77 Hookele St, Suite 201 Kahului, HI 96732 Ph: (808)871-5500 x 2 Fax: (808)873-6183	James Robello County Executive Director John Tamashiro Farm Loan Manager
Guam-CNMI Farm Service Agency Office	
770 East Sunset Blvd. Room 265 Barrigada, GU 96913 Ph: (671)472-7568 Fax: (671)472-7580 CNMI (670)234-0896	Thomas Camacho County Executive Director Fred San Nicolas II Farm Loan Assistant Manager
American Samoa Farm Service Agency Office	
Pago Plaza Building, Room 213 Pago Pago, AS 96799 Ph: (684)633-1031 x121 Fax: (684)633-7614	Josephine Lealasola Agricultural Specialist Letisha Gaoa Farm Loan Technician
Office Hours: Monday—Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm	
Next County Committee Meeting Dates: <u>Hawaii County</u> - January 17 at 8:30 a.m. <u>Honolulu County</u> - January 24 at 3:00 pm <u>Kauai County</u> - January 22 at 8:30 a.m. <u>Maui County</u> - December 19 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 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	

Candidates for this year's election (continued...)

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 re-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 re-elected.

Kauai County – LAA #2 - Kamalomalo, Kealia, Kapaa, Waipouli, North and South Oloheha; Tax Map Key District (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

Candidates for this year's election (continued...)

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, Ptit, Asan, Ordot, Chalan Pago, Mangilao, Barrigada, Barrigada heights, Sinajana, Agana, Agana Heights, Maina, Mongmong-Toto-Maite, Tamuning-Tumon-Harmon, Dededo (south of Yseng-song Road)

- Norman Aguilar is a fruit and vegetable producer in Dededo. He previously served on the COC, including as the chairman of the committee. If elected, Norman is willing to serve again.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
LAA #2 - Island of Saipan

- Isidoro "Sid" 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 government, Sid maintained his relationship with 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 betel nuts. She planted hot peppers and assorted local fruits and is currently concentrating on high value added products such as dragon fruit 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.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2013 fact sheet and brochures, can be found on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

FSA Advises Producers to Anticipate Payment Reductions Due to Mandated Sequester



United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is reminding farmers and ranchers who participate in FSA programs to plan accordingly in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 for automatic spending reductions known as sequestration. The Budget Control Act of 2011 mandates that federal agencies implement automatic, annual reductions to discretionary and mandatory spending limits. For mandatory programs, the sequestration rate for FY2014 is 7.2%. Accordingly, FSA is implementing sequestration for the following programs:

- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program;
- 2011 and 2012 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program; and
- Dairy Indemnity Payment Program.

Conservation Reserve Program payments are specifically exempt by statute from sequestration, thus these payments will not be reduced.

These sequester percentages reflect current law estimates; however with the continuing budget uncertainty, Congress still may adjust the exact percentage reduction. This announcement is intended to help producers plan for the impact of sequestration cuts in FY2014.

At this time, FSA is required to implement the sequester reductions. Due to the expiration of the Farm Bill on September 30, FSA does not have the flexibility to cover these payment reductions in the same manner as in FY2013. Farm Service Agency will provide notification as early as practicable on the specific payment reductions.

For information about FSA programs, visit your county FSA office or go to www.fsa.usda.gov/.

Need Information

The Hawaii and Pacific Basin Farm Service Agency (FSA) internet site contains news and information on FSA programs, an FSA calendar, and hot links to other agriculture related sites. **Find the information you are looking for at: www.fsa.usda.gov/hi**

The Face of American Samoa's Agriculture Scene

This year's American Samoa Department of Agriculture's 2013 Territorial Farm Fair showcased the traditional crops of American Samoa including taro, giant taro, banana, breadfruit, yams, coconut, ava Samoa, as well as a plethora of diverse crops that make up the local agricultural scene. Sewing and quilt making was added as a category this year bringing some colorful additions to the two day event. Hawaii's Chef extraordinaire, Sam Choy contributed a cooking demonstration preparing his sweet potato ulu salad to go with a chicken dish marinated in soy sauce. Chef Choy's demonstration showcased breadfruit, taro, sweet potato and watercress.

Photos courtesy of the American Samoa Humanities Council



Increased Guaranteed Loan Limit

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) maximum loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program has increased to \$1,355,000 effective October 1, 2013. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit is adjusted every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,655,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed Farm Ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Microloan Program

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.

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses, 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.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with a loan official.

LDPs for Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until January 31, 2014, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2013 crop year.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

Dates to Remember	
Dec. 16, 2013	Acreage reporting deadline for grazed forage
Dec. 20, 2013	New COC Election Ballots to be mailed
Dec. 25, 2013	Christmas Federal Holiday
Jan. 1, 2014	New Year Federal holiday
Jan. 2, 2014	Final acreage reporting date for honey
Jan. 17, 2014	Last day to return COC Election Ballots to County Office or postmark ballots
Jan. 20, 2014	Office closed for Martin Luther King Day

Selected Interest Rates for December 2013	
Microloans	1.875%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	2.875%

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