



Your Farm Service Agency Online Monthly Newsletter Covering the Latest Topics

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USDA FSA Provides Producers with a Safety Net Following Hurricane Iselle

Agricultural producers who were negatively impacted by severe storms Halong or Iselle or the torrential rains that occurred in American Samoa may be eligible for assistance through the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA). Program resources may include:

- [Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance \(NAP\)](#) helps to offset production losses for those producers who were signed-up for the program in advance.
- [Tree Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#) is available for qualifying fruit orchardists of papaya, macadamia nuts, banana and tropical fruits. The program provides cost share to clean up, rehabilitate and replant.
- [Emergency Conservation Program \(ECP\)](#) can assist farmers and ranchers with the clean-up of field damage to farms and ranches including debris removal and fence replacement. This program must be authorized by FSA's National Office and is based upon assessed impacts.
- [Livestock Indemnity Program \(LIP\)](#) helps offset ranchers' losses of cattle, goats or sheep.
- [Farm Loan Programs](#) offers a range of low-interest loan programs to assist producers. Additionally, producers with existing loans with FSA should contact their loan officer once they anticipate

having problems making their regular payments, as FSA may be able to modify their payment schedule or help meet other needs.

For more information about FSA's programs including what you need to do in advance of the next disaster visit www.fsa.usda.gov/hi or for a more comprehensive look at USDA disaster assistance visit: www.usda.gov/disaster.

"We are very concerned for producers' livelihoods due to the extent of reported damages sustained during these severe weather events," said, Diane Ley, Executive Director for FSA in Hawaii and the Pacific Basin. "Farm Service Agency has mobilized resources to meet directly with producers on all impacted islands."

Producers who experienced losses in any of these storms are urged to gather their records and call the FSA County Office for an appointment to discussion applicable disaster assistance programs and/or loan options. Due to the extent of the damages generating a high volume of inquiries, walk-in customers are advised of long wait times, as those with appointments will be given priority. When calling in, producers should be prepared to provide the following information:

- Name and contact information to allow for follow-up scheduling of an appointment;
- Location of farm;
- Type of crop;
- Estimated acres/trees lost or percentage of crop lost;
- Description of structural damage; and
- Assistance requested; e.g., disaster assistance or farm loan

Hawaii State & Pacific Basin Farm Service Agency Office	
300 Ala Moana Blvd, Rm 5-108 P.O. Box 50065 Honolulu, HI 96850 Ph: (808)541-2600 Fax: (855)356-9493	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: (855)356-9492	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: (855)356-9490	Jason Shitanishi County Executive Director Melissa Rodrigues Farm Loan Manager
Kauai County Farm Service Agency Office	
4334 Rice St, Suite 103 Lihue, HI 96766 Ph: (808)245-9014 x 2 Fax: (855)356-9495	Robert Ishikawa County Executive Director Melissa Rodrigues Farm Loan Manager
Maui County Farm Service Agency Office	
77 Hookele St, Suite 201 Kahului, HI 96732 Ph: (808)871-5500 x 2 Fax: (855)356-9494	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: (855)356-9491 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 P. O. Box 3661 Pago Pago, AS 96799 Ph: (684)633-1031 x 2 Fax: (684)633-7614	Josie Malepeai Lealasola Agricultural Specialist Letisha Gaoā Farm Loan Technician
Office Hours: Monday—Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm	

<p>Next County Committee Meeting Dates:</p> <p><u>Hawaii County</u> - October 10 at 8:30 am</p> <p><u>Honolulu County</u> - September 19 at 3:00 pm</p> <p><u>Kauai County</u> - August 20 at 8:30 am</p> <p><u>Maui County</u> - August 21 at 9:00 am</p> <p><u>Guam County</u> - November 12 at 9:00 am</p> <p><u>CNMI County</u> - November 12 at 9:00 am</p> <p>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:</p> <p>http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/hi_cof_staff.pdf</p>

Transportation Reimbursement Program Deadline September 8th

Farmers and ranchers in Hawaii and the Pacific Basin have until September 8, 2014 to sign up for the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program (RTCP) for fiscal year 2014.

The 2014 Farm Bill reauthorized RTCP, which offsets a portion of the costs of transporting agricultural products over long distances. The program allows farmers and ranchers in Hawaii and insular areas including Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands of the United States to recover transportation costs.

Benefits are calculated based on the costs incurred for transportation of the agricultural commodity or inputs during a fiscal year, subject to a cap of \$8,000 per producer per fiscal year. Fiscal year 2013 payments were made in May, with claims exceeding the available \$1.8 million in funding; therefore, payments to recipients were reduced by 0.6986156 percent.

Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program enrollments for fiscal year 2014 began July 21, 2014 and will end on September 8, 2014. Applicants must submit their application to their FSA county office by September 8, 2014. Applicants will have until November 3, 2014, to provide supporting documentation.

For more information on the RTCP program, farmers and ranchers in the eligible areas can call their county office or the [FSA website](#).

RTCP Sign-Up Goes E-Mail

In the last few weeks you may have noticed that your Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Office emailed you an invitation to complete the Reimbursement of Transportation Costs Payment Program (RTCP) in your home office and to mail or fax the required sign-up forms into the office.

Save time and a trip to the FSA County Office by looking for the email message from your County Executive Director or other office staff and follow the simple instructions after downloading the files. Make a copy of all the completed forms for your reference and place the original in the mail addressed to your County Office or fax it to County Office. Remember the deadline for receipt of your application for 2014 RTCP is September 8, 2014.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

Orchardists and nursery tree growers who experienced losses from natural disasters that occurred on or after October 1, 2011, can sign up for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). The program was authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 as a permanent disaster program providing financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Eligible tree types include papaya, macadamia nuts, banana and tropical fruit trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved. The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines, for which a producer can receive TAP payments, cannot exceed 500 acres annually.

[Click here](#) for more information about TAP.

Filing for NAP Losses

The 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, 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.

Need Information?

Find the information you are looking for at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/hi

Loans for Minorities and Women

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 purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for women and minorities including Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Hispanics.

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

Beginning Farmer Loans

Farm Service Agency (FSA) assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. Farm Service Agency defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years;
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm;
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA; and
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Feds Feed Families Food Drive Update

Morri-Ann Nagata, a Natural Resource Conservation Service employee on Kauai, displays 51 pounds of Kobacha pumpkin she grew for the Feds Feed Families Food Drive. The food drive continues through the month of August.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Feds Feed Families Food Drive.



Punachicks Farm: Broiler Chicken Bonanza

Punachicks Farm produces organically fed broiler chickens and markets them direct to consumers. The farm is the creation of Emily and Yoric Taaora.

The Taaora's motivation and determination came after watching multiple food/farm films like Food Inc. and reading articles about chefs who needed local poultry. In addition, Emily successfully completed the Business Plan Development for



The Taaora Family at their farm in Keaau

Farmers class through Hilo Community College's Office of Continuing Education and Training. Research and inspiration for her business plan came from reading Joel Salatin's Pasture Poultry Profits describing his model of chicken farming. With a real doable farm business plan in hand, available lease land, and Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Microloan Program, Emily and Yoric set out to develop Punachicks Farm.

When the Microloan Program was introduced in early 2013, Emily contacted the FSA Hawaii County Office. The Microloan Program provides operating funds with reduced experience requirements to farmers and ranchers. It's the perfect program for those starting out or requiring \$35,000 or less in operating assistance.

Emily holds a full time job in addition to working the farm. As her partner, Emily's husband Yoric, provides the daily labor and upkeep for the farm. Yoric was a stay at home dad caring for their youngest daughter but the timing for her to attend preschool full time worked with the establishment of Punachicks Farm. Yoric went from full time dad to full time farmer. His previous farming experience had been in Tahiti growing watermelons.

The Taaora's secured a loan with FSA in March 2013 and leasehold property for the farm in May then began production after fencing the property and planting pasture grasses. After being the first farm in the state to obtain approval to operate under the USDA's 20K birds/yr processing exemption, Punachicks Farm had their first sales in August 2013, starting out with only 200 chickens per month.

The chicks are raised in a brooder house at their property in Mt. View, then moved down to the farm in Keaau and placed in movable pens rotated around the farm, a method inspired by Joel Salatin's model of pastured poultry. Sales began through word of mouth, postings on Craigslist, and farmer's markets in Kalapana and Volcano. A following of loyal customers developed and business grew. They are now up to processing 280 chickens per month.

"We couldn't have started without FSA. We only had a little collateral and our tax return refund. The loan terms were favorable to get us through our first year of operation," Emily remembers.

Today Punachicks Farm's broiler chickens can be found in every natural food store on island. Their distribution is now aided by their relationship with Big Island Poultry. There is always room for growth, so Emily is working on the next phase in their business plan - restaurant presence. Now, Blue Dragon Restaurant in Kawaihae exclusively sells Puna Chicks Farm's broiler chickens.



Broiler chickens

"We developed a relationship with FSA through the Microloan program and to expand we could potentially apply for another loan." Emily and Yoric's vision is to add rotational grazing with sheep into their operation.

Emily "would like to encourage other young people to get into farming. You probably won't get rich doing it, but it's a great lifestyle when you can work together as a family doing something meaningful and be able to teach your kids about where food comes from."

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency (RMA) in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. Farm Service Agency has been and will continue to assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. Farm Service Agency will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

Livestock Disaster Assistance Sign-Up

On April 15, 2014, three (3) significant programs relating to livestock disaster assistance opened for producer enrollment. Under the 2014 Farm Bill, these programs were made permanent and retroactive with authority granted to cover losses that occurred on or after October 1, 2011.

To expedite applications, all livestock, honeybee and farm-raised fish producers who experienced losses are encouraged to bring records documenting those losses to their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Office. Producers' records should include all pertinent information relating to the consequences of the natural disaster, including:

- Documentation of the kind and number of livestock that died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses;
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts;
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures;
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures were destroyed; and
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records.

Producers can sign-up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs:

- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses should submit a completed CCC-853 and supporting documentation to their local FSA County Office by January 30, 2015.
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA County Office by January 30, 2015.
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as wildfires. This program addresses losses not covered by LFP or LIP.

Producers who suffered eligible losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA County Office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

For more information, producers can review the LFP, LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA County Office to apply for these programs.

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.

FSA 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, 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.

Interest Rates for August 2014

Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.125 %
MicroLoans	2.125 %
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.75%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	2.125%

Hay Net Access for Hawaii & Pacific Basin Ranchers

At the request of a local producer, Farm Service Agency (FSA) has made available the *Hay Net* website www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet for ranchers throughout Hawaii and the Pacific Basin.

Hay Net is an online resource for producers in need of hay and/or grazing acres to support livestock to post an advertisement seeking these resources. Likewise, landowners who have hay and/or grazing acres available for livestock producers can post a *Hay Net* advertisement as well.

A few things to remember when using the *Hay Net* website:

- There is a one-time registration process, known as eAuthentication that must be completed by all users who want to post an ad online.
- Users who just want to browse ads DO NOT NEED to have an eAuthentication user identification.
- Hay and grazing acre ads will be automatically removed after a period of 13 months.
- It is important to keep ads current and up to date and remove ads no longer needed or want advertised on *Hay Net*. Please, no corporate advertisements on this site.

Hay Net is brought to you by FSA as a public service. The sole purpose of this online resource is to provide a site for the exchange of information. Farm Service Agency does not endorse, guarantee, or otherwise make representations of any kind regarding any user of this site, and FSA is not responsible for defining the terms of grazing agreements or lease contracts.

For more information about *Hay Net* and other FSA services and programs, please contact your local FSA office.

Expanded Term Limits for Guaranteed Loan Eligibility

Changes to Farm Service Agency regulations have removed Guaranteed Operating Loan term limits. Previous and current guaranteed loan borrowers who were not eligible for further guaranteed loans due to the previous 15 year eligibility term limit may now be eligible for further guaranteed loans through their commercial lender.

Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America (FFA) and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) or a legal resident alien;
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age;
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements;
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources;
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above; and
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

Land Contract Guarantees

The Land Contract Guarantee Program is a valuable tool to transfer farm real estate to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Guarantees will be offered to the owner of a farm who wishes to sell real estate through a land contract to a beginning, woman or minority farmer or rancher. The guarantee reduces the financial risk to the seller.

Farm Service Agency offers two types of guarantees:

- Prompt Payment Guarantee - A guarantee up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost of any related real estate taxes and insurance.
- Standard Guarantee - A guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract.

The guarantee period is 10 years and the contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years. The purchase price of the farm cannot exceed the lesser of \$500,000 or the market value of the property.

For additional information you can read the [Land Contract Guarantee Program Fact Sheet](#).

Farmers are Reminded of 2014 Farm Bill Conservation Compliance Changes

Changes mandated through the 2014 Farm Bill require producers to have a Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification (AD-1026) on file.

For farmers to be eligible for premium support on their federal crop insurance, a completed and signed AD-1026 form must be on file with the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Since many FSA and Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) programs have this requirement, most producers should already have an AD-1026 on file. If producers have not filed, they must do so by June 1, 2015.

When a farmer completes the AD-1026, FSA and NRCS staff will outline any additional actions that may be required for compliance with the provisions. The Risk Management Agency, through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), manages the federal crop insurance program that provides a farm safety net for farmers and ranchers.

Since enactment of the 1985 Farm Bill, eligibility for most commodity, disaster, and conservation programs has been linked to compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions. The 2014 Farm Bill continues this requirement that producers adhere to conservation compliance guidelines to be eligible for most programs administered by FSA and NRCS. This includes the Livestock Disaster Assistance programs and conservation programs, as well as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and other programs.

Farm Service Agency recently released a revised form AD-1026, which is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: www.fsa.usda.gov. The Department will publish a rule later this year that will provide details outlining the connection of conservation compliance with crop insurance premium support. Producers can also contact their local USDA Service Center for information.

Farm Bill Website Provides Overview of Farm Bill Programs

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the Act), also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, was signed by President Obama on February 7, 2014. The Act repeals certain programs, continues some programs with modifications, and authorizes several new programs administered by the

Farm Service Agency (FSA). Most of these programs are authorized and funded through 2018.

For the latest on 2014 Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, please visit the Farm Bill website at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill, and for an FSA program overview please see the FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet entitled, [What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?](#)

For more information on FSA, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit online at www.fsa.usda.gov/hi.

USDA Announces New Support for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the implementation of new Farm Bill measures and other policy changes to improve the financial security of new and beginning farmers and ranchers. The Department also unveiled www.USDA.gov/newfarmers, a new website that will provide a centralized, one-stop resource where beginning farmers and ranchers can explore the variety of USDA initiatives designed to help them succeed.

The website has in depth information for new farmers and ranchers including: how to increase access to land and capital; build new market opportunities; participate in conservation opportunities; select and use the right risk management tools; and access to USDA education and technical support programs. These issues have been identified as top priorities by new farmers. The website will also feature instructive case studies about beginning farmers who have successfully utilized USDA resources to start or expand their business operations.

The new policy announcements in support of beginning farmers and ranchers include:

- Waiving service fees for new and beginning farmers or ranchers to enroll in the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the 2014 crop year. This program provides risk management tools for farmers and ranchers who grow crops for which there is no crop insurance product. Under this waiver, announced via an [official notice](#) to Farm Service Agency offices, farmers and ranchers who have already enrolled in NAP for the 2014 crop year and certified to being a beginning farmer or a minority or woman farmer are eligible for a service fee refund.

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- Increasing payment rates to beginning farmers and ranchers under [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program](#) (ELAP). Under this provision, beginning farmers can claim up to 90 percent of losses. This is a fifty percent increase over previously available payment amounts to new and beginning farmers.

In the near future, USDA will also announce additional crop insurance program changes for beginning farmers and ranchers – including discounted premiums, waiver of administrative fees and other benefits.

Additional information about USDA actions in support of beginning farmers and ranchers is available [here](#).

Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food



The *Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food* (KYF2) initiative is an United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) wide effort focused on strengthening local and regional food systems.

In recent years, consumers have shown an increased interest in purchasing locally-produced foods and many farmers and ranchers followed the trend and offer fresh foods through local markets. The Department followed suit, developing the website: KYF2, which helps connect consumers with producers in their community. The website offers information on a wide range of programs that can assist farmers, ranchers, businesses, communities and individuals. To learn more about grants, loans and support that is available, visit [KYF2](#).

The USDA programs on the website are intended to stimulate economic development in agricultural communities, foster new opportunities for farmers and ranchers, promote locally and regionally grown and processed foods, cultivate healthy eating habits and educated consumers, expand access to affordable fresh and local food and develop a connection between food, agriculture, community and the environment.

[Click here](#) for more information on KYF2.

Save Time - Make an Appointment with FSA

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is currently assisting a large number of producers with storm related damages; hence, the county offices are very busy. Save yourself an extended waiting period by making an appointment before coming into discuss your business' needs.

Additionally, as the Farm Bill programs administered by FSA are rolled out there will be related signups and in some cases multiple management decisions that need to be made by you, the producer, in consultation with FSA staff. To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, please call our office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment. For local FSA Service Center contact information, [click here](#).

Dates to Remember

September 8, 2014	Deadline to submit applications for the Reimbursement of Transportation Cost Payment Program (RTCP)
September 15, 2014	Deadline for Maui and Hawaii County producers to submit emergency loan applications for drought
September 17, 2014	Deadline for Hawaii County producers to submit emergency loan applications for heavy rains and flooding
November 3, 2014	Deadline to provide supporting documentation for the Reimbursement of Transportation Cost Payment Program
Continuous	Sign-up for the Hawaii Conservation Reserve Program (Hawaii CREP)

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).