

# Hawaii County FSA News

April 2009

**Farm Service Agency**

Hawaii County FSA Office  
 154 Waiianuenu Avenue  
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 Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
 Phone: (808) 933-8340  
 Fax: (808) 933-8345

**Hours**

Monday - Friday  
 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Hawaii County Committee**

Yoshio Watanabe,  
 Chairperson  
 Charles Onaka,  
 Vice-Chairperson  
 Aileen Yeh, Member

**County Executive Director**

Lester T. Ueda

**Farm Program**

**Technicians:**  
 Malia Boyce  
 Debbie Jitchaku  
 Jennifer Withrow (Kona Office)

**Farm Loan Specialist**

Miki Miyasato

**Farm Loan Officer**

John Tamashiro

**Farm Loan Program**

**Technician:**  
 Linda Kow

For further details and to discuss your own operation's eligibility for any program, contact your nearest FSA local office.

For a list of local offices, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/HI](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/HI)

## Buy-In Waiver Extension Approved for Disaster Assistance Programs

Producers who did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 can pay a buy-in fee through May 18, 2009, to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance programs authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Producers who have not already taken the necessary steps to become eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) are required to complete the following steps by May 18, 2009:

- Pay a \$100 "buy-in" fee per crop. The maximum fee is \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers.
- In the case of each insurable crop, excluding grazing land, agree to obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is available; coverage level should equal 70 percent or more of the yield at 100 percent of the price.
- In the case of each noninsurable crop, agree to file the required paperwork and pay the applicable administrative NAP coverage fee by the applicable state application closing date for the next available year.

Producers who choose to "buy in" under this provision will be considered, for insured crops, to have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for the 2008 crop year at a level of coverage not to exceed 70 percent of the yield at 100 percent of the price. For non-insurable crops, producers will be considered to have a level of coverage equal to 70 percent of the yield. These levels of coverage will be used to calculate the 2008 SURE guarantee.

Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," are not required to pay the buy-in fee.

A contact list is set forth below:

COUNTY	PHONE	FAX	EMAIL
Hawaii	(808) 933-8341	(808) 933-8345	lester.ueda@hi.usda.gov
Honolulu	(808) 483-8600	(808) 483-8615	jason.shitanishi@hi.usda.gov
Kauai	(808) 245-9014	(808) 246-4639	robert.ishikawa@hi.usda.gov
Maui	(808) 871-5500	(808) 873-6183	james.robello@hi.usda.gov

# Hawaii Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

## Overview

The Hawaii Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (Hawaii CREP) is a Federal-State natural resources conservation project that addresses State and nationally significant agricultural related environmental concerns. The Hawaii CREP goals are to meet environmental objectives and to protect environmentally-sensitive land in Hawaii.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA), in partnership with the State of Hawaii, together provide additional financial incentives to producers who voluntarily enroll in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Participants remove marginal pastureland and cropland from agricultural production and convert the land to native trees, grasses, and other vegetation through application of conservation practices. CRP is authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. FSA administers CRP and CREP on behalf of CCC.

This conservation partnership seeks to enroll up to 15,000 acres of eligible marginal pastureland (MPL) and/or cropland. The program will restore riparian forest buffers, wetland buffers, and other native forest restoration areas by planting native vegetation and controlling invasive species. Enrollment on the islands will be phased in over a five-year period. The primary goals of the Hawaii CREP are to improve water quality and quantity, increase groundwater recharge, improve near-shore coral reef health and diversity by filtering agricultural run-off, and enhance wildlife habitat.

## General Benefits

The Hawaii CREP provides for restoration of previously forested and degraded agricultural land. In addition to reforestation, planting grasses, legumes, forbs, and shrubs will also be used as components of the specialized conservation practices. The project will improve wildlife habitat through the creation of riparian forest buffer corridors and expansion of critical habitat for many threatened, endangered, and rare species of Hawaii. This project will enhance water quality and quantity by reducing soil run-off, increasing ground water absorption, and reducing stream sedimentation and nutrient loading to near-shore environments. Additional benefits associated with these activities will accrue through habitat restoration for plant and animal species, native forest restoration, wetland restoration, and preservation of open space.

## Eligible Counties

The Hawaii CREP is available for enrollment in the following counties: Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, and Honolulu. Enrollment on the islands, to be conducted on a year-round continuous sign-up basis, will be phased in over a five-year period. Land enrolled in the program will remain under CRP contracts for a minimum of 14 years, but no more than 15 years. Offers for enrollment under the Hawaii CREP will be accepted, in the following order with enrollment limited to 3,000 acres per year:

- Crop years 2009-2010: Islands of Hawaii and Maui
- Crop year 2011: Islands of Molokai and Lanai (and above islands)
- Crop year 2012: Island of Kauai (and above islands)
- Crop year 2013: Island of Oahu (and above islands)

## For More Information

For more information about FSA and its programs, including CRP continuous sign-up, contact a local FSA office or visit FSA's web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crp.htm>.

# Crop Acreage Report

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs.

- Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP)      All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits. The report is needed to determine reasonableness of claimed productions.
- Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)
- Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)
  
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)      Acreage must be reported to receive annual CRP rental payments. The report is needed to determine that the producer has maintained CRP acreage.
  
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)      Acreage must be reported for which NAP benefits maybe requested. The report is needed to establish eligibility of the crop and producer for NAP benefits.
  
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)      All crops, in all counties must be reported. The report is needed to establish eligibility of the crop and producer for SURE benefits.
  
- ACRE Program      All cropland on the farm must be reported. The report is needed to establish eligibility of the crop and producer for ACRE benefits
  
- Livestock Forage Program (LFP)      Pastureland or grazing land acreage for which LFP benefits may be requested. The report is needed to establish eligibility of the crop and producer for LFP benefits.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers are required to file reports by the deadlines listed below:

- September 30    Aquaculture, Ornamental Nursery, Floriculture, Turfgrass sod
- December 16    Forage
- December 31    Banana, Papaya, Orchard, Sugar Cane, Pineapple
- January 2        Honey
- 15 days prior    Other fruits and vegetable (onset of harvest)

Prevented planting and failed acreage should also be reported.

Prevented planting occurs when a crop cannot be planted during the established planting period because of a natural disaster. To be timely filed, prevented planted reports must be submitted no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the applicable crop.

Failed acreage comprises tracts of properly-planted and managed crops that did not grow or were destroyed due to a natural disaster.

Acreage reports for failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish, to the satisfaction of the county committee, that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

USDA, Farm Service Agency  
Hawaii County FSA Office  
P O Box 845  
Hilo, HI 96721-0845

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## **FSA County Committee Election**

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

### **Nominations**

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. Nominations forms for the 2009 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business, August 3, 2009.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates

This year's election will be in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2, which consists of the Kona and Mauna Kea districts with tax map key zones 5, 6, 7 and 8.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."