

FSA Updates

Immigrant Farmers Government

Judging by the turnout, great food, response, and positive feed back, the recent Immigrant Farmers

Government Workshop held at FAT Law's Farm in Ewa Beach on Sept. 02 was a success. A big mahalo to the Laotian Farmers Association of Hawaii, FAT Law's Farm, Inc., participating City, State, and Federal Government Agencies, and especially the immigrant farming community on Oahu for their support and assistance in making this inaugural event a success. Listed below are this years participating Agencies, programs and services they provide, along with phone contact information.

Agency	Phone	Programs/Services
USDA Farm Service Agency	483-8600 Ext. 2	Farm loans, disaster, insurance, and other agriculture assistance programs.
USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service	483-8600 Ext. 3	Various conservation programs and assistance (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)
Soil and Water Conservation Districts	483-8600 Ext. 115	Conservation plans & assistance (grading/grubbing permit exemptions, apply for federal programs, etc.)
Oahu Resource Conservation District	483-8600, Ext. 113	Agricultural development program (ADP)
University of Hawaii, CTAHR Agribusiness Incubator Program	956-3530	Strategic/business/marketing plans, financial analysis/systems remediation, & project management.
USDC, Economic Development Administration	541-3391	Grant Programs - Public Works, Technical Assistance, Planning, University Center Assistance, & Economic Adjustment
UH-CTAHR, Kaneohe Extension Office	247-0421	Provide a variety of agricultural educational outreach activities (production/pest/etc.).
UH-CTAHR Plant & Environment Protection	956-9208	Risk management training for immigrant farmers (pest management, pesticide use, production, etc)
Hawaii State Dept of Agriculture Pesticides Branch	973-9401	Pesticide use and regulations (State)
Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation	848-2074	Non-profit organization supporting Hawaii's agriculture industry
USDA, APHIS Waimanalo Fruit Fly Facility	259-8822	Oahu fruit fly survey program
Pacific Gateway Center	845-3918	Non-profit organization helping immigrants, refugees and low-income residents (loans, employment, etc.)
Farm Credit Services of Hawaii	836-8009	Agriculture loans
HTDC, Manufacturing Extension Partnership	539-3603	Agriculture export readiness training (ERT)
Honolulu City & County People's Open Market	522-7088	Oahu agriculture open markets



**Honolulu County
USDA Service Center
Honolulu County FSA**
99-193 Aiea Heights Dr.
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Aiea, Hawaii, 96701
808-483-8600 x2 (phone)
808-483-8615 (fax)

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Harry Choy, Chair
Dominic Kadooka, Vice-Chair
Van Tu, COC Member

Staff
Farm Program Technician
Gwen Zakahi
Farm Loan Specialist
Connie Holman
County Executive Director
Jason Shitanishi

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Farm Service Agency Introduces Redesigned Website for

The State Farm Service Agency launched its redesigned website this week at www.fsa.usda.gov/hi. The new look and navigation will enable users to easily find information about FSA's programs and provides guidance for conducting USDA business online. In addition to a new look, FSA has added a more effective search tool for finding specific information. Other new features include "Hot Links" and "I Want To" sections that provide users quick links to popular FSA functions as well as other important agriculture information. Users can also view state news releases, newsletters and a FSA events calendar outlining agriculture activities across the state.

Deadline To Apply For Trade Adjustment Benefits Announced

Agricultural commodity producers or fishermen in the United States, or their authorized representatives, may file a petition to USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service between now and January 31, 2007 for benefits under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program (TAA). Benefits under this program include cash payments and various educational benefits that can include occupational training. In prior years, TAA benefits have been provided to producers of blueberries, concord grapes, potatoes, lychees, avocados, and to fishermen of shrimp and salmon, to name a few. The petition for benefits must be received by the TAA office by close of business January 31, 2007. The TAA office address is Foreign Agricultural Service, ITP/IPPD, MS-1021, Washington, DC 20250-1021, or facsimile number is (202) 720-0876, or by e-mail to trade.adjustment@fas.usda.gov. Use of fax or email is recommended.

Once a petition has been accepted, a determination will be made to verify that the most recent marketing year price for the commodity produced by the group is less than 80 percent of the average of the national average prices for the five marketing years preceding the most recent marketing year and that increases in imports of a like or directly competitive product contributed importantly to the decline in price. If these conditions are met, the Administrator of the Foreign Agriculture Service will certify the group as eligible for trade adjustment assistance. Once a petition has been certified, eligible producers and qualified fishermen will have 90 days to contact their local Farm Service Agency service center to apply for assistance.

For more information, or assistance in completing form FAS-930, contact: Jean-Louis Pajot, Coordinator, Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers, FAS, USDA, (202) 720-2916, email: trade.adjustment@fas.usda.gov. Additional program information can be obtained at the TAA website. The URL is <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/taaindex.htm>

Funds Available for Conservation Projects

Applications are now being accepted for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Ground and Surface Water Conservation (GSWC) Program, and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). Interested farmers, ranchers and wildlife enthusiasts have until January 16, 2007 to submit their applications, and supporting documentation to be considered for this ranking period.

Under the EQIP program, financial cost-share assistance is available to agricultural producers that install conservation measures on agricultural lands being actively farmed or grazed. Proposed priority natural resource concerns being considered are: animal waste, erosion/sedimentation, noxious weeds, insufficient water supply for livestock or irrigation, pesticide or nutrient contamination of ground or surface waters, at-risk species habitat, and invasive species. In addition, the GSWC Program may fund projects which show a net savings in ground or surface water resources on agricultural lands that have been irrigated two out of the past five years.

Under the WHIP program, financial cost-share assistance is available to enhance or create quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of National, State, and local significance. NRCS will provide technical assistance to help agricultural producers and wildlife enthusiasts design, plan, and implement their conservation measures. For more information about the programs, visit our website at www.hi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ or call the NRCS Field Office in Aiea at 483-8600 Ext. 3.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio-tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Honolulu County FSA Office
99-193 Aiea Heights Drive, #114
Aiea, Hawaii, 96701**

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