



May 2011

Maui County FSA Office

77 Ho'okele St. # 201
Kahului, Hawaii 96732

Phone: 808-871-5500 ext. 2
Toll Free: 1-866-465-0519
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Office Hours

Monday through Friday
7:30 am – 4:00 pm

County Committee

Colleen T. Lopes
Chairperson

Lynn P. DeCoite
Vice-Chairperson

Bryan T. Otani
Member

Staff

James Robello
County Executive Director

Vance Christensen
Manager, Farm Loans

Rochelle Kaauamo
Program Technician

Faith Umetsu
Loan Analyst

Monthly Meeting

Every Third Thursday
9:30 AM

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County Committee Elections

The annual election for the Farm Service Agency County Committee is coming up. Any person or group can nominate a qualified producer on the attached form FSA-669A. Producers can also nominate themselves. Nominees must be qualified to vote in the election.

This year, Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 will be electing a representative to the Committee. LAA 2 consists of all ranches and farms located on the island of Maui, south and south west of Kuihelani Hwy., Hana Hwy. and Haleakala Hwy. It includes the communities of Kula, Omaopio, Kihei, Pukalani, Ulupalakua, Kanaio, Kahikinui, Kaupo and Kipahulu.

If your farm is located in this area you may be an eligible candidate or voter. Contact the Maui County FSA Office if you would like to be added to the slate of candidates, confirm your voting eligibility, or be added to the eligible voter list. Any eligible farmer or rancher may request a ballot from FSA if they don't receive one in the mail. If you would like to be added to the slate of nominees your nomination form (FSA-669A) must be received or postmarked by August 1.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 4. Ballots must be returned or post marked to the Maui County FSA Office by December 5. Ballots will be counted by December 12. Please follow the voting instructions carefully. **Only signed ballots will be counted.**

The FSA County Committee is an important link between national USDA programs and local farmers. As part of the Committee, members will make important decisions on the needs of local farm programs. All farm owners, operators, tenants and sharecroppers of legal voting age are eligible to serve on the County Committee and vote in the elections.

If you don't receive a ballot in the mail by mid-November, contact the FSA office and we will mail you a ballot or make arrangements to have you come in and complete a walk-in ballot.

Elections are open to all eligible candidates and voters without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status or disability.

FSA is committed to diversity on County Committees and encourages the participation of minority, female and other under-represented and under-served producers. To find out more about the FSA County Committee contact the Maui County FSA office or visit our website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Disaster Program Sign Up

Applications are being accepted for the 2009 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program. SURE is a disaster program to assist farmers and ranchers who have experienced losses caused by natural disasters.

To be eligible for SURE a farm must have:

- A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops.
- Be physically located in a county that was declared a disaster by the Secretary of Agriculture. Without a Secretarial disaster designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster.
- At least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance.

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a crop insurance policy or NAP coverage.

Compensation for Claims of Discrimination

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. This means you may be eligible if:

1. you sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing during that period;
2. and the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, or approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and
3. you believe these actions were based on your being Hispanic, or your being female.

If you want to register your name to receive a claims packet, you can call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the following website: www.farmerclaims.gov

In 2011, a claims administrator will begin mailing claims packages to those who have requested one through the Call Center or website. The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.

For guidance, you may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider in your community. If you are currently represented by counsel regarding allegations of discrimination or in a lawsuit claiming discrimination, you should contact your counsel regarding this claims process.

USDA cannot provide legal advice to you.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

Livestock producers in Maui County who have suffered losses due to drought in 2011 may be eligible to receive direct payments based on the size and type of livestock.

LFP eligibility is limited to producers who have purchased Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) or crop insurance coverage for 2011. Producers who meet the requirements of socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher do not have to meet risk management purchase requirements.

LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to qualifying drought. Losses must have occurred on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or a crop planted specifically for grazing.

Qualifying drought ratings are determined using the U.S. Drought Monitor located at <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>.

Eligible livestock under LFP include beef and dairy cattle, alpacas, buffalo, beefalo, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep and swine.

Livestock maintained for other than commercial agricultural use, such as rodeo stock, trail ride horses, or livestock for personal consumption are ineligible for benefits under LFP.

An applicants average adjusted gross nonfarm income (AGI) may not exceed \$500,000.

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 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 Civil Rights, 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.

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