

USDA FSA NEWS



September 2009

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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 Chair-
 person
 Bryan T. Otani, Member

Staff
 James Robello,
 County Executive Director

Vance Christensen,
 Farm Loan Specialist

Rochelle Kaauomo,
 Program Technician

Faith Umetsu,
 Loan Analyst

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USDA Service Center Relocation

Due to flooding which occurred in July, the USDA Service Center has relocated to the Kahului Building at 33 Lono Avenue in Kahului. FSA is located in room 240.

County Committee Election

This year, Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 will be electing a representative to the Committee. LAA 1 consists of all ranches and farms located north, northwest, and northeast of Kuihelani Hwy., Hana Hwy., and Haleakala Hwy. It includes the communities of Hana, Keanae, Haiku, Makawao, Paia, Kahului, Wailuku, Kaha-kuloa, and Lahaina.

The candidate for this year's election is Colleen Lopes. Mrs. Lopes owns and operates a livestock operation in Kaupakalua.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by **November 6**. Ballots must be returned or post marked to the Maui County FSA Office by **December 7**. Ballots will be counted at the FSA office in Kahului by **December 10**. Please follow the voting instructions carefully. **Only signed ballots will be counted.**

Farm owners, operators, tenants and share-croppers of legal voting age can vote for their County Committee. Elections are open to all eligible candidates and voters without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status or disability.

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.

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, call the Maui County FSA office at (808) 871-5500 extension 353. You may also visit our website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL)

FSFLs are now available for fruits and vegetables.

The FSFL program provides low-interest financing for producers of eligible commodities to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates are based on the rate the Credit Commodity Corporation borrows from the Treasury Department.
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Farm Storage Facility Loan (continued)

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables – cold storage facilities
- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops – lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass

For more information about FSFL or other FSA price support program, please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Livestock Forage Disaster program (LFP)

Signup for the LFP began September 14. Livestock producers who have suffered a loss due to drought in 2008 or 2009 may be eligible to receive direct payments based on the size and type of livestock. Eligibility is limited to producers who have purchased Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 or 2009. Producers who meet the requirements of socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher do not have to meet risk management (NAP) purchase requirements.

The deadline to apply for 2008 losses is December 10, 2009. The deadline to apply for 2009 losses is January 30, 2010.

Contact the FSA office for more details.

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