



FSA NEWS

July 2006

Maui County FSA Office

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Office Hours

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

County Committee

William G. Jacintho, Chair
Debra N. Kelly, Vice-Chair
Colleen T. Lopes, Member

Staff

James Robello,
County Executive Director

Vance Christensen,
Farm Loan Specialist

Rochelle Kaauamo,
Program Technician

Faith Umetsu,
Program Technician

Inside This Issue:

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

County Committee Elections

Access to Programs and Facilities

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Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally funded program designed to reduce financial losses that occur when damaging weather or adverse natural occurrences cause a catastrophic loss of production of an eligible crop or agricultural commodity. The payment limitation for NAP is \$100,000 per "person" per year.

Sales Closing Date for Value Loss Crops for Crop Year 2007

The sales closing date for value loss crops such as **floriculture, nursery, aquaculture and Christmas trees** will be **September 1, 2006**.

Vegetable, forage, honey and other crops will be December 1, 2006.

How are Payments Calculated?

For value loss crops such as nursery and aquaculture, NAP coverage pays for the loss of value in excess of 50% of the total value. NAP payments are then made at 55% of the established market price.

How Much Does It Cost?

A nonrefundable service fee in an amount that is equal to the lesser of \$100 per crop per administrative county; or \$300 per producer, per administrative county, but not to exceed a total of \$900 for multiple county producers.

Acreage Reporting

Only crops for which a unit acreage report is on file with the FSA office will be eligible for NAP

assistance. Unit acreage certification must include all acreage of the eligible crop, and each crop in the event of multiple planting, in which, during the crop year the producer has an interest in the county.

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) 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.

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 3**. Ballots must be returned or post marked to the Maui County FSA office by **December 4**. Ballots will be counted at the FSA office in Wailuku by **December 11**. Please follow the voting instructions carefully. **Only signed ballots will be counted.**

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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.

Farm owners, operators, tenants and sharecroppers of legal voting age who are eligible to participate in FSA programs 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.

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) 244-3100 extension 2. You may also visit our website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Access to Programs and Facilities by Persons with Disabilities

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact James Robello, County Executive Director at (808) 244-3100 extension 2.

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 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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