

November 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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SED's Comments

Aloha, Talofa, Hafa Adai!

On Wednesday, October 24, 2018, Super Typhoon Yutu made landfall in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas' Islands with maximum sustained winds of 180 mph and gusts of 230 mph. The eye of YUTU passed directly over southern Saipan and majority of Tinian just before 0200 ChST on October 25th 2018. Super Typhoon Yutu is the most powerful storm to make landfall on U.S. soil since 1935. Saipan, Tinian, and Rota experienced heavy rainfall and extremely high winds which caused damages to homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure. Many of our family of farmers and ranchers in CNMI were directly affected and are in need of assistance to clear debris and restore lands into production. FSA personnel (Tom Camacho and Doreen Rivera) completed an initial assessment and all of the FSA Team throughout Hawaii and the Pacific Basin stand ready to provide assistance to our agriculture producers throughout the Commonwealth.

Timely communication of our program updates, and especially new offerings, is key to ensuring producers receive all the assistance possible from FSA. Please help us in getting our message out by encouraging fellow producers to sign up for our email updates, such as this monthly newsletter. I'm concerned we have way too many producers who just aren't in the loop and are missing out on receiving essential information, so please reach out to your neighbors, friends and family of farmers and ranchers and encourage them to sign up for our email updates. Text, email or phone them to provide the following link: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/subscriber/new/>

As I mention last month, farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers have new online options to access U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs. Signing up for our Level 2 eAuthentication access can greatly improve and quicken application submissions and payment processing – for more info see the article below on **Sign in/Sign up**.

AL Frenzel, State Executive Director
USDA Farm Service Agency Hawaii & Pacific Basin

Hawaii & Pacific Basin FSA State Office

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Honolulu, HI 96850

Phone: 808-541-2600 x 2
FAX: 855-356-9493

State Executive Director:
AL Frenzel

Acting Chief Program Specialist:
Kristen Kiriu

Chief, Farm Loan Program:
Theresa Correa

Upcoming County Committee Meetings:

Hawaii County Committee
January 11, 2019 at 8:30 am

Honolulu County Committee
December 21, 2018 at 3:00 pm

Maui County Committee
December 20, 2018 at 8:30 am

Kauai County Committee
November 21, 2018 at

Guam County Committee
December 12, 2018 at 9:00 am

CNMI County Committee
December 12, 2018 at 11:00 am

Contact the County Office to confirm meeting date and time, as budget constraints

FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections

The 2018 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections began on Nov. 5, when ballots were mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return the ballots to local FSA offices is Dec. 3, 2018.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm, may also be eligible to vote.

Eligible voters in following local administrative areas, who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center. Dec. 3, 2018, is the last day for voters to submit ballots in person to local USDA Service Centers. Ballots returned by mail must also be postmarked no later than Dec. 3. Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2019.

The candidates in this year's election are being held in the following local administrative areas:

Hawaii County, LAA #2 All ranches and farms located in Kona and Mauna Kea; Tax Map Zones 5, 6, 7, and 8

Maui County, LAA #1 All ranches and farms located on the island of Maui, north, northwest and northeast of Kuihelani Hwy, Hana Hwy, and Haleakala Hwy. This includes the communities of Hana, Keanae, Haiku, Makawao, Paia, Kahului, Wailuku, Kahakuloa and Lahaina.

Honolulu County, LAA #3 All ranches and farms on the West and Northshore of Oahu. This includes the communities of Waipahu, Ewa, Kunia, Wahiawa, Makakilo, Nanakuli, Waianae, Waialua and Mokuleia.

Kauai County, LAA #3 Anahola, Aliomanu, Papaa, Moloaa and all of the Hanalei District.

may limit the County Committee's ability to meet each month.

Guam County, LAA #1 Anderson AFB, Yigo and parts of Dededo (Ysengsong) and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, LAA #1 Island of Rota.

[Click here for a list of County Offices, contact numbers and addresses.](#)

More information on county committees, such as the new 2018 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

Website for Hawaii and Pacific Basin FSA:

www.fsa.usda.gov/h

December 1st—NAP Deadline

With the recent substantial number of severe weather systems impacting Hawaii and Pacific Island producers, it has never been a better time to sign up for the 2019 NonInsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). The deadline for vegetable, fruit, honey and grass producers to sign up for coverage is December 1, 2018.

This program covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought and excessive moisture. Coverage is available for production of vegetables, fruit, forage and grazing crops, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

NonInsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

To learn more about NAP visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local FSA County Office.

Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable:

December 16, 2018 - Grazed Forage - 15 days before the onset of grazing

January 2 - Honey

March 15 - Coffee

March 31 - All other non-insurable crops covered by Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program not listed in this table. Acreage reporting date is by March 31 of the subsequent crop year.

May 31 - Nursery for the ensuing crop year

July 15 - Banana, Papaya, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

September 30 - Aquaculture, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Turfgrass Sod for the ensuing year

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local County FSA office.

Environmental Review Required Before Project Implementation

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to consider all potential environmental impacts for federally-funded projects before the project is approved.

For all Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs, an environmental review must be completed before actions are approved, such as site preparation or ground disturbance. These programs include, **but are not limited to**, the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program and farm loans. If project implementation begins before FSA has completed an environmental review, this will result in a denial of the request. There are exceptions regarding the Stafford Act and emergencies. It is important to wait until you receive written approval of your project proposal before starting any actions, including, but not limited to, vegetation clearing, site preparation or ground disturbance.

Remember to contact your local FSA office early in your planning process to determine what level of environmental review is required for your program application so that it can be completed timely.

Applications cannot be approved contingent upon the completion of an environmental review. FSA must have copies of all permits and plans before an application can be approved.

Loan Servicing

There are options for Farm Service Agency loan customers during financial stress. If you are a borrower who is unable to make payments on a loan, contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager to learn about the options available to you.

Sign in/Sign up!

Farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers have new online options to access U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs. Through USDA's new streamlined process, producers doing business **as an individual** can now register, track and manage their applications for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) and 2017 Wildfires Hurricanes Indemnity Program (2017 WHIP) on the secure and convenient www.farmers.gov. Producers doing business as an individual first need to sign up for the Level 2 eAuthentication access. Currently USDA eAuthentication does not have the mechanism to issue accounts to businesses, corporations, other entities or for anyone acting on behalf of another individual or entity.

- o Step 2: Complete identity verification by either using the online self-service identity verification method or by completing the identity verification in-person at your USDA Service Center.
- o Step 3: You're enrolled
- o Step 4: Contact your local USDA Service Center to have your new Level 2 account linked with your USDA customer record
- o Step 5: You're ready to Log In

Or go to your local USDA Service Center and our supportive staff will help you sign up for Level 2 Access right in the office! They will get you online so you can create an online account at <https://www.farmers.gov/sign-in>. You'll complete identity verification right on the spot. You're enrolled! Users with a secure Level 2 eAuthentication ID linked to their USDA customer record can apply for select USDA programs, view and print farm maps and farm records data. Enrolling is easy! Visit [farmers.gov/sign-in](https://www.farmers.gov/sign-in) to learn more.

To locate a service center near you or use online services not requiring eAuthentication access, visit www.farmers.gov. For technical assistance, call the eAuthentication help desk at 1-800-457-3642.

November 2018 Interest Rates

Farm Operating Loans 3.750%
Farm Operating Microloans 3.750%
Farm Ownership Loans 4.125%
Farm Ownership Microloans 4.125%
Farm Ownership Loans Direct Down Payment for Beginning Farmer or Rancher 1.500%
Emergency Loans 3.750%

FSA Hawaii & Pacific Basin State Committee

Teena Marie Rasmussen, Chairperson
Wilson Kenzo Koike
Glenn Martinez
Boyd J. Ready
Simon Russell

Sign Up Today for Text Alerts from FSA

Subscribers Can Receive Important Program Reminders and Updates

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) farmers and ranchers now can receive notifications from their county office through text messages on their cell phone

Whether producers are in the field, on a tractor or even on horseback, this service enables FSA customers and stakeholders to receive notifications while on the go. Producers will receive text messages regarding important program deadlines, reporting requirements, outreach events and updates.

Producers can text the **short codes** below to FSANOW (372-669) to subscribe to text message alerts from their respective counties. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.

Hawaii County : **HPBHawaii**
Honolulu County: **HPBHonolulu**
Kauai County: **HPBKauai**
Maui County: **HPBMAui**

Please contact your [local FSA office](#) if you have questions regarding FSA's email news service or the text message option.

Hawaii County Mailing Address Update

Please send correspondence to the following address:

Hawaii County FSA
P O Box 845
Hilo, HI 96721

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).



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