

September 2017



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

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## Hawaii & Pacific Basin State FSA Newsletter

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#### Hawaii & Pacific Basin State Farm Service Agency

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#### Acting State Executive Director:

Steve Peterson

#### 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 2018 NonInsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). The deadline for vegetable and fruit producers to sign up for coverage is December 1, 2017.

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. Optional NAP Buy-Up offers higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of expected production at 100 percent of the average

**Chief Program Specialist:**  
Steve Peterson

market price, including coverage for organics and crops marketed directly to consumers.

**Chief, Farm Loan Program:**  
Steve Bazzell

The 2014 Farm Bill expanded NAP to include higher levels of protection. Beginning, underserved and limited resource farmers are now eligible for free catastrophic level coverage, as well as discounted premiums for additional levels of protection.

**Upcoming County Meetings:**

Hawaii County Committee  
October 13, 2017 at 8:30 am

Honolulu County Committee  
October 20, 2017 at 3:00 pm

Maui County Committee  
October 19, 2017 at 8:30 am

Kauai County Committee  
October 18, 2017 at 9:00 am

Guam County Committee  
October 4, 2017 at 10:00 am

CNMI County Committee  
October 11, 2017 at 10:00 am

To find contact information for your [local office click here](#).

To learn more about NAP and NAP Buy-Up plan visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/nap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nap) or contact your [local FSA County Office](#).

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## **Deadline to Submit Documentation for the Reimbursement of Transportation Cost Payment Program (RTCP)**

November 3, 2017 is the deadline to submit to the Farm Service Agency County Office documentation for the Reimbursement of Transportation Cost Payment Program.

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## **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)**

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by other agricultural disaster assistance programs.

Eligible livestock losses include grazing losses not covered under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), loss of purchased feed and/or mechanically harvested feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, additional cost of transporting water because of an eligible drought and additional cost associated with gathering livestock to treat for cattle tick fever.

Eligible honeybee losses include loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, including CCD, and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

Eligible farm-raised fish losses include death losses in excess of normal mortality and/or loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event.

Producers who suffer eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses from Oct. 1, 2016 to Sept. 30, 2017 must file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by Nov. 1, 2017
- An application for payment by Nov. 1, 2017

The Farm Bill caps ELAP disaster funding at \$20 million per federal fiscal year.

The following ELAP Fact Sheets (by topic) are available online:

- ELAP for Farm-Raised Fish Fact Sheet
- ELAP for Livestock Fact Sheet
- ELAP for Honeybees Fact Sheet

To view these and other FSA program fact sheets, visit the FSA fact sheet web page at [www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets).

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## Update Your Records

FSA is cleaning up our producer record database. If you have any unreported changes of address or zip code or an incorrect name or business name on file they need to be reported to our office. Changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase, need to be reported to our office as well. Producers participating in FSA and NRCS programs are required to timely report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and update their CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan.

If you have any updates or corrections, please call your [local FSA office](#) to update your records.

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## Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery. If an on-site visit is not required producers are charged a reduced rate.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty or loss of eligibility.

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## September 2017 Interest Rates

Farm Operating Loans 2.75%  
Farm Operating Microloans 2.75%  
Farm Ownership Loans 3.75%  
Farm Ownership Microloans 3.75%  
Farm Ownership Loans Direct Down Payment for Beginning Farmer or Rancher 1.5%  
Emergency Loans 3.75%

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