

August 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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Hawaii & Pacific Basin FSA State Office

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Hawaii County Eligible for Emergency Loans Following Presidential Disaster Declaration

Hawaii County was declared a primary disaster due to Kilauea Volcanic Eruption and Earthquakes. Under this designation, producers with operations in any primary or contiguous county are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

For more information about emergency loans, please contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Upcoming County Committee Meetings:

Hawaii County Committee
October 12, 2018 8:30am

Honolulu County Committee
August 17, 2018 3:00pm

Maui County Committee
August 16, 2018, 8:30am

Kauai County Committee
September 19, 2018, 9:00am

Guam County Committee
October 10, 2018, 9:00am

CNMI County Committee
October 10, 2018 11:00am

Contact the County Office to confirm meeting date and time, as budget constraints may limit the County Committee's ability to meet each month.

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

Website for Hawaii and Pacific Basin FSA:

www.fsa.usda.gov/hi

USDA Announces Signup for the 2018 Reimbursement Transportation Program

Program Helps Offset Cost for Farmers and Ranchers Outside the Contiguous U.S.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Hawaii State and Pacific Basin Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced to farmers and ranchers residing outside the contiguous continental United States that the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program (RTCP) for fiscal year 2018 will begin on July 16, 2018, and end on Sept. 7, 2018.

The 2014 Farm Bill reauthorized RTCP, which offsets a portion of the costs of transporting agricultural products over long distances. The program allows farmers and ranchers in Alaska, Hawaii and insular areas including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Virgin Islands of the United States, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Republic of Palau, to recover any transportation costs.

RTCP payments are calculated based on the costs incurred for transportation of the agricultural commodity or inputs during a fiscal year, subject to an \$8,000 per producer cap per fiscal year. In the event that claims for payments exceed the funds available from the program for a fiscal year, payments will be reduced on a pro-rata basis.

For more information on RTCP, farmers and ranchers in the eligible areas can visit their administrative FSA county office or the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Elections for the 2018 County Committee

Elections for USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Hawaii State County Offices and Guam County Committee are underway.

It is important that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the USDA. The 2018 election in will be conducted for the representative Local Administrative Area (LAA) outlined below:

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.

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.

County committee members are a critical component of FSA operations. Committees should be comprised of members who reflect the diversity of producers involved in production agriculture in their respective counties. This means that producers representing underserved groups or communities should be on the committee to speak on behalf of their constituency.

Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and land owners and/or operators who have limited resources. Other minority groups including Native American and Alaska Natives; persons under the poverty level, and persons that have disabilities are also considered underserved.

County committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 5, 2018. The last day to return completed ballots is Dec. 3, 2018.

For more information on eligibility to serve on FSA county committees, visit: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Report Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Losses

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes, flood, excessive heat and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing), among others.

Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2018 crops. A notice of loss must be filed the earlier of 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days of the final harvest date.

Producers of hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent.

Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

For more information on NAP, contact your [local FSA](#) office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap.

Direct Loans

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating Loans to producers who want to establish, maintain or strengthen their farm or ranch. FSA loan officers process, approve and service direct loans.

Direct farm operating loans can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate.

Direct farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan amount for both direct farm ownership and operating loans is \$300,000 and a down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

Please contact your [local FSA office](#) for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.

Update Your Records

FSA is cleaning up our producer record database. If you have any unreported changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address 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.

August 2018 Interest Rates

Farm Operating Loans - 3.75%

Farm Operating Microloans - 3.75%

Farm Ownership Loans - 4.125%

Farm Ownership Microloans - 4.125%

Farm Ownership Loans Direct Down Payment for Beginning Farmer or Rancher - 1.50%

Emergency Loans - 3.75%

Hawaii County: Address Change

As of June 30, 2018, all Hawaii County Farm Service Agency mail should be addressed to:

Hawaii County Farm Service Agency
154 Waianuenue Avenue, Room 122
Hilo, HI 96720

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.

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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