



# Hawaii & Pacific Basin NEWSLETTER

June 2015



Your Farm Service Agency Online Monthly Newsletter Covering the Latest Topics

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## **FSA Honolulu County to Relocate**

After July 2nd, the Honolulu County Office will provide service out of the Airport Industrial Park at 3375 Koapaka Street, Suite B-211, Honolulu. The new phone number will be 861-8538.



## **County Committee Nominations Open**

The nomination period for Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is June 15, 2015 through August 3, 2015. To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election, and reside in the local administrative area where the person is nominated.

Farmers and ranchers may nominate themselves or others. Organizations representing minorities and women may also nominate candidates. To become a candidate an eligible individual must sign the nomination form, FSA-669A. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections). Nomination forms for the 2015 election must be postmarked or received in the FSA County Office by close of business on August 3, 2015. Elections will take place this fall.

County committees make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs and other agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms, and in Hawaii and the Pacific Basin committees consist of three members that are elected by eligible producers.

Farm Service Agency will mail ballots to eligible voters beginning November 9, 2015. Ballots are due back to the local county office via mail or in person by December 7, 2015. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office on January 1, 2016.

## **Disaster Assistance for Guam and CNMI**

Commercial producers in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) impacted by Typhoon Dolphin should contact their Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Office regarding disaster assistance and low-interest loan programs to assist in their recovery efforts.

Available programs and loans include:

### [Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance](#)

(NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. Eligible producers must have signed-up for NAP coverage for 2015 crops.

[Tree Assistance Program](#) (TAP) is available for qualifying fruit orchardists of papaya, banana and tropical fruits. The program provides cost share to clean up and replant.

[Livestock Indemnity Program](#) (LIP) helps offset ranchers' losses of cattle, goats or sheep.

[Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program](#) (ELAP) provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs. Producers must submit a

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<b>Hawaii State &amp; Pacific Basin Farm Service Agency Office</b>	
300 Ala Moana Blvd, Rm 5-108 Honolulu, HI 96850 Ph: (808) 541-2600 Fax: (855)356-9493	Diane Ley State Executive Director Steve Bazzell Farm Program Loan Chief
<b>Hawaii County Farm Service Agency Hilo Office</b>	
154 Waiuanue Ave, Room 219 Hilo, HI 96720 Ph: (808)933-8381 x 1 Fax: (855)356-9492	Lester Ueda County Executive Director Linda Kow Farm Loan Manager
<b>Honolulu County Farm Service Agency Office</b>	
99-193 Aiea Heights Dr, Room 114 Aiea, HI 96701 Ph: (808)483-8600 x 2 Fax: (855)356-9490	Jason Shitanishi County Executive Director Melissa Rodriques Farm Loan Manager
<b>Kauai County Farm Service Agency Office</b>	
4334 Rice St, Suite 103 Lihue, HI 96766 Ph: (808)245-9014 x 2 Fax: (855)356-9495	Robert Ishikawa County Executive Director Melissa Rodriques Farm Loan Manager
<b>Maui County Farm Service Agency Office</b>	
77 Hookele St, Suite 201 Kahului, HI 96732 Ph: (808)871-5500 x 2 Fax: (855)356-9494	James Robello County Executive Director Richard 'Buddy' Nichols Farm Loan Manager
<b>Guam-CNMI Farm Service Agency Office</b>	
770 East Sunset Blvd. Room 265 Barrigada, GU 96913 Ph: (671)472-7568 Fax: (855)356-9491 CNMI (670)234-0896	Thomas Camacho County Executive Director Fred San Nicolas II Farm Loan Assistant Manager
<b>American Samoa Farm Service Agency Office</b>	
Pago Plaza Building, Room 213 P. O. Box 3661 Pago Pago, AS 96799 Ph: (684)633-1031 x 2 Fax: (684)633-7614	Josie Malepeai Lealaso Agricultural Specialist Letisha Gaoā Loan Analyst
<b>Office Hours: Monday—Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm</b>	
<b>Next County Committee Meeting Dates:</b>	
<u>Hawaii County</u> - July 10 at 8:30 am	
<u>Honolulu County</u> - July 17 at 3:00 pm	
<u>Kauai County</u> - June 17 at 8:30 am	
<u>Maui County</u> - June 24 at 7:30 am	
<u>Guam County</u> - August 12 at 9:00 am	
<u>CNMI County</u> - August 12 at 9:00 am	
Contact the County Office to confirm meeting date and time, as budget constraints may limit the County Committee's ability to meet each month. A list of County Offices, contact numbers and addresses may be found at: <a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/hi_cof_staff.pdf">http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/hi_cof_staff.pdf</a>	

## Disaster Assistance... *Continued*

notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent. The Program also covers up to 150 lost grazing days in instances when a producer has been forced to remove livestock from a grazing pasture due to floodwaters. For beekeepers, ELAP covers beehive losses (the physical structure) in instances where the hive has been destroyed by a natural disaster including flooding and high winds.

[Farm Loan Programs](#) offers low-interest loans, including Emergency Loans to assist producers. Additionally, producers with existing loans with FSA should contact their loan officer once they anticipate having problems making their regular payments, as FSA may be able to modify their payment schedule or meet other needs.

To obtain more information or to schedule an appointment, call FSA Guam/CNMI County Office at (671) 472-7568 in Guam or from the CNMI call (670) 234-0896 toll free or fax to (855) 356-9491.



New Maui County Farm Loan Manager Richard 'Buddy' Nichols goes over borrowers' records with Farm Loan State Specialist Miki Miyasato. Buddy relocated in late May from FSA's Weld County Office in Colorado and has been meeting with Maui producers and learning about local agriculture, markets and more. Later this month, he will be on Molokai for similar orientation meetings. Give Buddy a call at 871-5500, extension 118 to schedule an appointment to discuss your financial needs.



## Matthew checks back-in with FSA

In November 2013, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) newsletter featured the article below highlighting Matthew Kawamura's successes raising livestock; the benefits he gained through participation in 4-H on the island of Kauai; and how three FSA Youth Loans taught him the business side of raising animals. Recently, Matthew took a few minutes to share with FSA where he is today and his plans for the future.

*MK:* This is my last year at Kauai Community College before transferring to the University of Hawaii at Manoa to study travel industry management. Why travel you ask; well, I have been to Japan, France, Greece and Italy. Yes, I do like to travel.

*FSA:* So no more livestock or 4-H?

*MK:* Oh, I will be around animals when I go back home to help out, and I am a Junior Leader with the Garden Island 4-H Ranchers so there is an active leadership role for me to play guiding young students interested in livestock.

*FSA:* Once a leader, always a leader. Matthew, it has been really good talking to you, and best wishes in all your future journeys.



Matthew Kawamura with "Curly" at the ranch, November 2013. Matt and Curly took the Grand Championship Showmanship and Live awards at the 2013 Kauai County Farm Bureau Fair.

## Making the Best Better through 4-H and FSA Youth Loans

Matthew Kawamura, 18, has experienced both success and unmatched opportunity through his participation in 4-H. He began raising his first pig at the age of six as a

member of the 4-H Clover Bud Club. Matthew's interest in 4-H was sparked by his older brother and sister who were successful members of the Kauai 4-H Livestock Club. 4-H runs deep within the Kawamura family history as both his father and uncle raised many animals for the Kauai County Farm Bureau Fairs (KCFBF) between the late 70s and early 80s.

During his 12 years as a 4-H member, Matthew has received a number of awards at both the KCFBF and Hawaii State Farm Fair, including Grand Champion Showmanship and Reserve Champion Showmanship for his various lamb and steer projects, and awards for Carcass Evaluation. Through his experiences in 4-H Matthew has learned the importance of time management, hard work, communication, and persistence. These skills helped him become a leader and discover his love for assisting others including mentoring younger 4-H members.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) Youth loan program assisted Matthew by covering the expenses involved with raising his show animals. This provided him with the opportunity to learn the fiscal side of "what it takes" to operate a business at an early age. He learned valuable lessons in money management, staying within budget, and tracking all of his expenditures. He also assured that his animals were ready to show at the right market weight to yield the best possible profit. Matthew obtained his own checking and savings account, to manage all of his loan payments. By successfully paying off three youth loans, Matthew established good financial credit history, something many students his age lack, or are unaware of.

Thanks to the profits from his multiple 4-H projects, Matthew was able to attend two 4-H National Conferences held in Atlanta and Washington DC, meeting other 4-H members from across the United States. "I met Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack and was able to personally meet Senator Daniel Akaka, Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, and then Congresswoman Mazie Hirono," Matthew states. "I strongly recommend 4-H to other youth due to the life skills they can learn and the financial benefits they can obtain through a FSA Youth Loan."

"I want to personally thank those who have been very supportive of me, teaching me to be responsible through my 4-H projects and through the family business and encouraging me to take on leadership roles in 4-H." Matthew continues, "I also want to thank the FSA Loan Officer, T.J. Nii, and Program Technician, Mary Pigao, for their assistance in helping me with my youth loans."



Click on the photo icon to visit USDA's *New Farmer and Rancher* web link with resources, tools and how to get connected. Extensive resources include information about getting started, education and assistance, access to land and capital, managing risk, protecting the environment and expanding business.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
June 15, 2015	County Committee Nominations begin
June 19-20, 2015	Molokai 4-H Livestock Show and Sale
June 20, 2015	Big Island 4-H Livestock Show and Sale
July 11-12, 2015	Hawaii State Farm Fair & 4-H Livestock Show and Sale, Kualoa, Oahu
July 15, 2015	Deadline for Crop Acreage Reporting for banana, papaya & Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
August 3, 2015	Deadline to submit nominations for County Committee elections
September 30, 2015	Deadline for Hawaii, Maui and Honolulu producers to apply for an Emergency Physical Loss Loan due to high winds and flooding in January 2015
November 4, 2015	Deadline for Hawaii County producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to impact from lava flows
December 7, 2015	Deadline to submit County Committee Ballots for 2015
February 5, 2016	Deadline for Guam County producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to impacts from Typhoon Dolphin
Continuous	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program sign-up

## Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with Farm Service Agency (FSA) program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their FSA County Office to file an accurate crop certification report by the following deadlines:

July 15	Banana, Papaya, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
September 30	Aquaculture, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Turfgrass Sod for the ensuing year
December 16	Grazed Forage – 15 days before the onset of grazing
January 2	Honey – for crop year 2016
March 15	Coffee – for 2016

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

<b>Interest Rates for June 2015</b>	
Farm Operating Loans	2.375 %
MicroLoans	2.375 %
Farm Ownership Loans	3.50 %
Farm Ownership Loans Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50 %
Emergency Loans	3.375 %

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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).