



Your Farm Service Agency Online Monthly Newsletter Covering the Latest Topics

In this Issue:

Page 1:

FSA Supports Our Youth

FSA Youth Loans

Deadline for Reimbursement of Transportation Cost Payment Program

Page 2:

Maui and Kauai Ranchers May Apply for Disaster Assistance

Emergency Loans Available for Saipan, Tinian, Maui and Kauai Producers

SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans

Page 3:

New Conservation Incentives for Working Pasture Lands

Celebrate CRP's 30th Anniversary

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program

NAP Sign-Up Deadline

Page 4:

Disaster Protection and Loans

Interest Rates for September 2015



FSA Supports Our Youth

Mason Phillips (front) of the Garden Island 4-H Ranchers took the Grand Champion Live and 1st Place Showmanship awards at the 2015 Kauai County Farm Bureau Fair last month. Members of the Kauai 4-H Livestock Club also showed their animals at the Fair. Five of the six lamb projects were supported with Farm Service Agency Youth Loans.

FSA Youth Loans

Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (including Guam, American Samoa, Common wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources

- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor.

The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

Contact your [FSA County Office](#) to make an appointment for help in preparing a Youth Loan application.

Deadline for Reimbursement of Transportation Costs Payment Program

November 2, 2015 is the deadline to submit to the Farm Service Agency County Office documentation for the Reimbursement of Transportation Costs Payment Program.

Hawaii State & Pacific Basin Farm Service Agency Office	
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
Hawaii County Farm Service Agency Hilo Office	
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
Honolulu County Farm Service Agency Office	
3375 Koapaka Street, Suite B-211 Honolulu, HI 96819 Ph: (808)861-8538 Fax: (855)356-9490	Jason Shitanishi County Executive Director Melissa Rodriques Farm Loan Manager
Kauai County Farm Service Agency Office	
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
Maui County Farm Service Agency Office	
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
Guam-CNMI Farm Service Agency Office	
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 Doreen Rivera Loan Analyst
American Samoa Farm Service Agency Office	
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 Lealasila Agricultural Specialist Letisha Gaoā Loan Analyst
Office Hours: Monday—Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm	
<p>Next County Committee Meeting Dates:</p> <p><u>Hawaii County</u> - October 9 at 8:30 am</p> <p><u>Honolulu County</u> - September 18 at 3:00 pm</p> <p><u>Kauai County</u> - October 21 at 8:30 am</p> <p><u>Maui County</u> - September 17 at 8:30 am</p> <p><u>Guam County</u> - December 16 at 9:00 am</p> <p><u>CNMI County</u> - December 16 at 9:00 am</p> <p>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:</p> <p>http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/hi_cof_staff.pdf</p>	

Maui and Kauai Ranchers May Apply for Disaster Assistance

Maui and Kauai county ranchers are eligible to apply for 2015 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits to compensate for grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land.

Eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC-853 and provide the required supporting documentation no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year (January 30, 2016) in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur in the calendar year the application is being filed.

Additional information about LFP, including eligible livestock, is available at your [FSA County Office](#) or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Emergency Loans Available for Saipan, Tinian, Maui and Kauai Producers

In August, a Presidential Disaster Designation was declared for Saipan and Tinian following Typhoon Soudelor and a Secretarial Disaster Designation was declared for Maui and Kauai counties due to drought conditions. Both designations triggered the availability of low-interest Emergency Loans to assist producers in recovering from production and physical losses.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance (see Dates to Remember on page 4 for exact deadlines). Farm Service Agency (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 County Office](#) or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans

The severity of the drought in the counties of Maui and Kauai and the impacts of Typhoon Soudelor in Saipan and Tinian triggered the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) to make working capital loans available to assist small non-agriculture businesses, aquaculture businesses, nursery operations in the case of drought and agricultural cooperatives. For more information, call 800-659-2955 or visit www.sba.gov/disaster.

New Conservation Incentives for Working Pasture Lands

Farmers and ranchers can now apply for financial assistance to help conserve working grass, range and pasture lands while maintaining the areas as livestock grazing lands.

This new initiative is part of the voluntary Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a federally funded program that for 30 years has assisted agricultural producers with the cost of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. In return, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. The Conservation Reserve Program has helped farmers and ranchers prevent more than 8 billion tons of soil from eroding, reduced nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to cropland by 95 and 85 percent respectively, and sequester 43 million tons of greenhouse gases annually, equal to taking 8 million cars off the road.

The CRP-Grasslands initiative will provide participants who establish long-term, resource-conserving covers with annual rental payments up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land. Cost-share assistance also is available for up to 50 percent of the covers and other practices, such as cross fencing to support rotational grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators or other wildlife. Participants may still conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow, or harvest for seed production, conduct fire rehabilitation, and construct firebreaks and fences.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is now accepting applications on an ongoing basis. Those applications will be scored against published ranking criteria and approved based on the competitiveness of the offer. The ranking period will occur at least once per year and be announced at least 30 days prior to its start. The end of the first ranking period will be November 20, 2015.

To learn more about participating in CRP-Grasslands, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp or contact your [FSA County Office](#).

Celebrate CRP's 30th Anniversary
Visit www.fsa.usda.gov/CRPis30 or on Twitter using #CRPis30.



Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program

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.

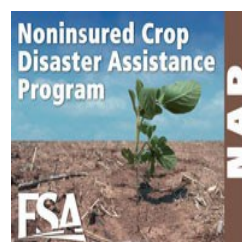
Eligible livestock losses include grazing losses not covered under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, loss of purchased feed and/or mechanically harvested feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, additional cost of transporting water because of an eligible drought and additional cost associated 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 Colony Collapse Disorder, 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 between October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015 must file: 1) A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by November 1, 2015; and 2) An application for payment by November 1, 2015.

The Farm Bill caps ELAP disaster funding at \$20 million per federal fiscal year. For more details see [ELAP Fact Sheets](#) or contact your [FSA County Office](#).



NAP Sign-Up Deadline

December 1, 2015 is the deadline to apply for 2016 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and Buy-Up for fruit and vegetables.

Disaster Protection and Loans

Producers who apply for loans with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) will now be offered the opportunity to enroll in new disaster loss protections created by the 2014 Farm Bill. The new coverage, available from the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), is available to FSA loan applicants who grow non-insurable crops such as fruit and vegetables and other specialty crops.

New, underserved and limited income specialty growers who apply for farm loans could qualify for basic loss coverage at no cost, or higher coverage for a discounted premium.

The basic disaster coverage protects at 55 percent of the market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of production. Covered crops include “specialty” crops, vegetables, fruits, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, hay, forage, grazing and energy crops. Farm Service Agency allows beginning, underserved or limited income producers to obtain NAP coverage up to 90 days after the normal application closing date when they also apply for FSA credit.

In addition to free basic coverage, beginning, underserved or limited income producers are eligible for a 50 percent discount on premiums for the higher levels of coverage that protect up to 65 percent of expected production at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers also may work with FSA to

protect value-added production, such as organic or direct market crops, at their fair market value in those markets. Targeted underserved groups eligible for free or discounted coverage include Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Asians, Hispanics, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, African Americans and women.

Farm Service Agency offers a variety of loan products, and growers need not apply for an FSA loan, nor be a beginning, limited resource, or underserved farmer, to be eligible for NAP assistance. To learn more contact your [FSA County Office](#).

Interest Rates for September 2015	
Microloans	2.625 %
Farm Operating Loans	2.625 %
Farm Ownership Loans	4.00 %
Farm Ownership Loans Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50 %
Emergency Loans	3.625 %

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).

Dates to Remember

September 24-27, 2015	Maui County Fair
September 30, 2015	Deadline for Hawaii, Maui and Honolulu producers to apply Emergency Physical Loss Loans due to high winds and flooding in January 2015
November 1, 2015	Deadline to apply for Emergency Livestock, Honeybee and Farm-Raised Fish Program for losses that occurred October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015
November 2, 2015	Deadline to submit documentation for Reimbursement of Transportation Costs Payment Program
November 4, 2015	Deadline for Hawaii County producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to impact from lava flows
December 1, 2015	Deadline to apply for 2016 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and Buy-Up for fruit and vegetables
January 30, 2016	Deadline for Maui and Kauai ranchers to apply for 2015 Livestock Forage Disaster Program
February 5, 2016	Deadline for Guam County producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to impacts from Typhoon Dolphin
April 5, 2016	Deadline for Saipan and Tinian producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to impacts from Typhoon Soudelor
April 19, 2016	Deadline for Maui and Kauai County producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to drought