



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Newsletter - March 2023

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Be Counted, Complete and Submit the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service Survey

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts hundreds of surveys every year and prepares reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture. Click here to watch a video on how the data is used [youtube.com/watch?v=m-4zjnh26io&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-4zjnh26io&feature=youtu.be).

If you receive a survey questionnaire, please respond quickly and online if possible.

The results of the surveys help determine the structure of USDA farm programs, such as soil rental rates for the Conservation Reserve Program and prices and yields used for the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs. This county-level data is critical for USDA farm payment determinations. Survey responses also help associations, businesses and policymakers advocate for their industry and help educate others on the importance of agriculture.

NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

NASS data is available online at nass.usda.gov/Publications and through the searchable [Quick Stats database](#).

Applying for Youth Loans

The 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 (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth 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.

For help preparing the application forms, contact your [County USDA Service Center](#) at or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Communication is Key in Lending

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is committed to providing our farm loan borrowers the tools necessary to be successful. FSA staff will provide guidance and counsel from the loan application process through the borrower's graduation to commercial credit. While it is FSA's commitment to advise borrowers as they identify goals and evaluate progress, it is crucial for borrowers to communicate with their farm loan staff when changes occur. It is the borrower's responsibility to alert FSA to any of the following:

- Any proposed or significant changes in the farming operation
- Any significant changes to family income or expenses
- The development of problem situations
- Any losses or proposed significant changes in security

If a farm loan borrower can't make payments to suppliers, other creditors, or FSA on time, contact your farm loan staff immediately to discuss loan servicing options.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, contact your [County USDA Service Center](#) or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Apply Now for Inflation Reduction Act Funding through EQIP and CSP with NRCS

Applications are being accepted for first round consideration for the [Inflation Reduction Act Funding](#) through Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Applicants interested in implementing a [Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry \(CSAF\) Mitigation Activities List FY2023](#), should contact their [local NRCS office](#) and submit an application by March 31, 2023.



Apply Now for Conservation Stewardship Program Funding with NRCS

Applications are currently being accepted for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) through March 31, 2023. Private landowners of crop and forest land who met certain benchmark conservation levels and are interested in taking their conservation further should contact their [local NRCS office](#) before March 31, 2023 and ensure an application is submitted. Please note, the signup deadline has been extended for this program to align with new funding received via the Inflation Reduction Act.



It's Tax Season! Let farmers.gov Help



Filing taxes can be challenging, especially if you are new to USDA programs, running a farm business or trying to forecast your farm's tax bill.

To support farmers and ranchers, USDA is partnering with tax experts from across the country to connect producers to information and resources related to taxes and USDA program payments, including those from the Inflation Reduction Act for distressed borrowers. RSVP for webinars or use the new tax estimator tool at farmers.gov/taxes.

Honolulu County FSA Office is Hiring

The Honolulu County Farm Service Agency (FSA) office is hiring a full time, temporary Program Technician (PT) not to exceed September 20, 2023. The deadline to apply is April 17, 2023.

Duties include general office activities supporting FSA programs administered at the field level. Successful applicants must be reliable, have a professional attitude and enjoy working with the public. Click here for the direct link to the position with information on how to apply: [Program Technician Job Announcement](#).

Applications must be received no later than close of business April 17, 2023.

March Interest Rates

Farm Operating- Direct 4.750%
Farm Operating - Microloan 4.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct 4.875%
Farm Ownership - Microloan 4.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct, Joint Financing 2.875%

Farm Ownership - Down Payment 1.500%
Emergency Loan - Amount of Actual Loss 3.750%

Dates to Remember

March 31, 2022 - Deadline to submit production and acreage reports for crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), fruits and vegetables. Contact your [county office](#) for a full list of applicable crops.

April 17, 2023 - Deadline to apply for Honolulu County Program Technician vacancy.

May 26, 2023 - Deadline to apply for Emergency Loans in Maui County for Bovine Tuberculosis (Bovine TB) disaster declaration

June 2, 2023 - Deadline to apply for the [Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program \(PARP\)](#) and the [Emergency Relief Program \(ERP\)](#).



USDA website: <https://www.usda.gov/>
Farmer.gov website: <https://www.farmers.gov/>

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632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

CONTACT US:

[Farm Service Agency](#)
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