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USDA Offers Disaster Assistance for Producers Affected by Typhoon Mawar

Typhoon Mawar created many challenges ahead and resulted in catastrophic loss for agricultural producers. Despite every attempt to mitigate risk, your operation likely suffered significant losses. USDA offers several programs to help with recovery.

Risk Management

For producers who have risk protection through the [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#) (NAP), we want to remind you to report crop damage to the local Guam Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

If you have NAP coverage, file a Notice of Loss (also called Form CCC-576) within 15 days of loss becoming apparent, except for hand-harvested crops, which should be reported within 72 hours.

Disaster Assistance

USDA also offers disaster assistance programs, which is especially important to livestock, fruit and vegetable, specialty and perennial crop producers who have fewer risk management options.

First, the [Livestock Indemnity Program](#) (LIP) and [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee and Farm-raised Fish Program](#) (ELAP) reimburses producers for a portion of

the value of livestock, poultry and other animals that died as a result of a qualifying natural disaster event or for loss of grazing acres, feed and forage.

Next, the [Tree Assistance Program](#) (TAP) provides cost share assistance to rehabilitate and replant tree, vines or shrubs loss experienced by orchards and nurseries. This complements NAP, which cover the crop but not the plants or trees in all cases.

For LIP and ELAP, you will need to file a Notice of Loss for livestock and grazing or feed losses within 30 days and honeybee losses within 15 days. For TAP, you will need to file a program application within 90 days.

Documentation

It's critical to keep accurate records to document all losses following this devastating typhoon event. Crop producers are advised to prepare acreage and production data which include, but is not limited to; type of crops, planting dates, farm acreage, and production data. Livestock producers are advised to document beginning livestock numbers by taking time and date-stamped video or pictures prior to and after the loss.

Other common documentation options include:

- Purchase records
- Production records
- Vaccination records
- Bank or other loan documents
- Third-party certification

Other Programs

The [Emergency Conservation Program](#) and [Emergency Forest Restoration Program](#) can assist landowners and forest stewards with financial and technical assistance to restore damaged farmland or forests.

Additionally, FSA offers a variety of loans available including emergency loans that are triggered by disaster declarations and operating loans that can assist producers with credit needs. You can use these loans to replace essential property, purchase inputs like livestock, equipment, feed and seed, or refinance farm-related debts, and other needs.

Meanwhile, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial resources through its [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) to help with immediate needs and long-term support to help recover from natural disasters and conserve water resources. Assistance may also be available for emergency animal mortality disposal from natural disasters and other causes.

Additional Resources

Additional details – including payment calculations – can be found on our [NAP](#), [ELAP](#), [LIP](#), and [TAP](#) fact sheets. On farmers.gov, the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#), [Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#), and [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](#) can help you determine program or loan options.

While we never want to have to implement disaster programs, we are here to help. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local Guam FSA Office at 671-300-8550 or 671-300-8551

USDA Extends Application Deadline for Revenue Loss Programs to July 14

USDA is extending the deadline for the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase Two and Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) to July 14, 2023, to give producers more time to apply for assistance. The original deadline was June 2. Additionally, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is partnering with nine organizations to provide educational and technical assistance to agricultural producers and provide assistance in completing an ERP Phase Two application. The extended deadline will give producers more time to work with these partner organizations and apply for assistance.

Cooperative Agreements for ERP Phase Two Application Assistance

Through cooperative agreements with FSA, the following organizations are providing free assistance to producers across the United States and territories.

- [Alabama State Association of Cooperatives](#)
- [Farmers Legal Action Group, INC.](#)
- [Flower Hill Institute](#)
- [Intertribal Agriculture Council, Inc](#)
- [North South Institute](#)
- [Renewing the Countryside II](#)
- [Rural Advancement Foundation International - USA](#)
- [Rural Coalition](#)
- [Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers CBO](#)

Depending on a producer's location, these nine partners can provide assistance either by phone or through online meeting software like Zoom or Microsoft Teams. There is never a charge for technical assistance provided by FSA employees or cooperative agreement recipients. These organizations will assist producers with completing the application and any follow-up future insurance coverage requirements. Producers who receive ERP payments are statutorily required to purchase crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for the next two available crop years. These organizations will not collect producer records, complete or sign the application form, or act on the producer's behalf in any way throughout this process. Find more information on FSA cooperative agreements and contact information for the nine organizations please visit fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/cooperative-agreements/index.

Eligibility

To be eligible for ERP Phase Two, producers must have suffered a decrease in allowable gross revenue in 2020 or 2021 due to necessary expenses related to losses of eligible crops from a qualifying natural disaster event. Assistance will be primarily to producers of crops that were not covered by Federal Crop Insurance or NAP, since crops covered by Federal Crop Insurance and NAP were included in the assistance under ERP Phase One. To be eligible for PARP, an agricultural producer must have been in the business of farming during at least part of the 2020 calendar year and had a 15% or greater decrease in allowable gross revenue for the 2020 calendar year, as compared to a baseline year. FSA offers an online [ERP tool](#) and [PARP tool](#) that can help producers determine what is considered allowable gross revenue for each respective program. Producers should contact their local FSA office to make an appointment to apply for ERP Phase Two and PARP assistance. Producers should also keep in mind that July 15 is a major deadline to complete acreage reports for most crops. FSA encourages producers to complete the ERP Phase Two application, PARP application and acreage

reporting during the same office visit.

More Information For more information, view the [ERP Phase Two Fact Sheet](#), [PARP Fact Sheet](#), the [ERP Phase Two-PARP Comparison Fact Sheet](#), [ERP Phase Two application video tutorial](#), [PARP application video tutorial](#), [myth-buster blog](#) or contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).



Courtesy Photo: Eric Tanouye (center) with sons Chris (left) and Jon (right) at their anthurium greenhouse on their farm on Hawaii Island

State Committee Spotlight: Eric Tanouye, Green Point Nurseries

The state committee is appointed by USDA Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and they are responsible for the oversight of farm programs and county committee operations, resolving program delivery appeals from the agriculture community, maintaining cooperative relations with industry stakeholders, keeping producers informed about FSA programs and operating in a manner consistent with USDA equal opportunity and civil rights policies.

The Hawaii & Pacific Basin FSA state committee is comprised of five members and over the next few months we'll be introducing you to each member. We kick off our spotlight series with Eric Tanouye, the President of Green Point Nurseries on Hawaii Island.

1. Tell us about your farm history. When did you start farming and what are you producing?

My name is Eric Tanouye, and I am a 2nd generation flower farmer from Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii. I am the president of Green Point Nurseries, which was founded by my late father, Harold Tanouye.

My father started the business in 1976 because he saw potential in selling Hawaii grown anthuriums and foliage to the U.S. mainland market. I started full-time in the summer of 1979.

We've been exporting for 47 years in domestic and international markets and today it's roughly 60% of our business. The international markets have shrunk but we have been experiencing and we forecast continuing growth in the U.S. mainland market.

2. How did you initially learn about FSA? What was the first FSA program you enrolled in?

We went through a disaster while I was farming with my father, where our nursery got flooded. We were able to utilize a program that helped with debris removal called ECP, the Emergency Conservation Program. If my memory serves me correctly, it was around November of 2000.

3. What new information that you have learned since taking office would you share with fellow farmers and ranchers that you think would impact their operation?

I've learned the importance of completing surveys so our voices can be heard and recorded in our national and state census reports which play a critical role in getting needed federal funding for Hawaii.

Simply communicating by email asking farmers and ranchers to complete the surveys will not produce the results you want. Producers are already dealing with an increasing amount of state and federal government regulations and documentation requirements that are a burden to family run operations. USDA representatives must communicate with producers by phone or in person to build a relationship. Only then will we get the results you want.

4. All Hawaii and Pacific Basin producers are unique, what makes your operation unique?

We've made the "green" in Green Point Nurseries one of our priorities. Both our nurseries are powered by the sun and our Kurtistown nursery captures rainfall for all its irrigation needs. We are now in the process of adding more PV panels and batteries to increase our renewable energy capacity. We are also adding charging stations as we transition to electric vehicles when possible. We want to do our part in making Hawaii less dependent on fossil fuels and it is also a cost saving measure to help our company stay competitive into the future.

We are also in the process of adding mini-weather stations to our operation to gather data such as wind speed, sunlight, humidity, and moisture. This will help us to better understand the growing conditions to help us produce the best quality and greater yields, etc. Wind speeds will also help us determine what measures are needed to better harden our nurseries to mitigate risk in high wind events.

5. What are the 3 things that you think could be done to accelerate agriculture In Hawaii?

Hawaii agriculture is facing strong headwinds such as the aging farmer issue, and climate change. Before we can talk about accelerating production, we must first address these two priority issues.

Sustained demand and good profitability are key to encouraging succession or for young people to enter the field. It could also increase production with existing farm and ranching operations.

With climate change upon us, increasing capacity for FSA programs such as the CFAP (Coronavirus Food Assistance Program); PARP (Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program), RTCP (Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program); ECP (Emergency Conservation Program) and NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) to help Hawaii producers be resilient is essential. In a hurricane, even a hardened operation will sustain damage. Only by being resilient will producers consider investing in increasing production.

6. What is the most gratifying part of being a farmer?

Having my three sons now involved with the family business is the most gratifying. Succession in family businesses can be a challenge but we will work to make the transition as seamless as possible.

My dad Harold told me early on that our business is only as good as our employees. He created an aloha workplace culture where some of our employees have been with us for over 30 years and many over 20 years. So, they too have become like family. I try my best to follow in his footsteps to keep Green Point a good place to earn a living.

And what's not to like when you grow beautiful flowers for a living?

Is the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program Right for You?

Farmers and ranchers rely on crop insurance to protect themselves from disasters and unforeseen events, but not all crops are insurable through the USDA's Risk Management Agency. The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides producers another option to obtain coverage against disaster for these crops. NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops impacted by natural disasters that result in lower yields, crop losses, or prevents crop planting.

Commercially produced crops and agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available are generally eligible for NAP. Eligible crops include those grown specifically for food, fiber, livestock consumption, biofuel or biobased products, or value loss crops such as aquaculture, Christmas trees, ornamental nursery, and others. Contact your local FSA office to see which crops are eligible in your state and county.

Eligible causes of loss include drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes, earthquake and flood. These events must occur during the NAP policy coverage period, before or during harvest, and the disaster must directly affect the eligible crop. For guidance on causes of loss not listed, contact your local FSA county office.

Interested producers apply for NAP coverage using FSA form [CCC-471](#), "Application for Coverage," and pay the applicable service fee at the FSA office where their farm records are maintained. These must be filed by the application closing date, which varies by crop. Contact your local FSA office to verify application closing dates and ensure coverage for eligible NAP crops.

At the time of application, each producer acknowledges they have received the [NAP Basic Provisions](#), which describes NAP requirements for coverage. NAP participants must report crop acreage shortly after planting and provide verifiable or reliable crop production records when required by FSA.

Producers are required to pay service fees which vary depending on the number of crops and number of counties your operation is located in. The NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Premiums also apply when producers elect higher levels of coverage with a maximum premium of \$15,750 per person or legal entity.

A producer's certification on Form CCC-860 *Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification* may serve as an application for

basic NAP coverage for all eligible crops beginning with crop year 2022. These producers will have all NAP-related service fees for basic coverage waived, in addition to a 50 percent premium reduction if higher levels of coverage are elected.

For more detailed information on NAP, download the [NAP Fact Sheet](#). To get started with NAP, we recommend you contact your [local USDA service center](#).



County Committees



The direct link between agriculture communities across the country and USDA.

NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED NOW THROUGH AUGUST 1

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Farm Service Agency Now Accepting Nominations for Farmers and Ranchers to Serve on Local County Committees

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now accepting nominations for county committee members for elections that will occur later this year. Additionally, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is unveiling a new GIS tool to make it easier for producers to participate in the nomination and election processes for county committee members, who make important decisions on how federal farm programs are administered locally.

All nomination forms for the 2023 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2023.

Elections will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA) for members. LAAs are elective areas for FSA committees in a single county or multi-county jurisdiction and they may include LAAs that are focused on an urban or suburban area.

Customers can locate their LAA through a new GIS locator tool available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Agricultural producers may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee if they:

- Participate or cooperate in a USDA program; and
- Reside in the LAA that is up for election this year.

A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits. Individuals may nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations may also

nominate candidates. USDA encourages minority producers, women and beginning farmers or ranchers to nominate, vote and hold office.

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agricultural community serve on FSA county committees. The committees are made up of three to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Committee members are vital to how FSA carries out disaster programs, as well as conservation, commodity and price support programs, county office employment and other agricultural issues.

More Information

Producers should contact their local FSA office today to register and find out how to get involved in their county's election, including if their LAA is up for election this year. To be considered, a producer must be registered and sign an [FSA-669A](#) nomination form. Nomination forms and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, 2023.

It's Hurricane Season

Hurricane season is officially underway and lasts until November 30. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts that the 2023 hurricane season will produce 4 to 7 tropical cyclones for the central Pacific region. Here are a few steps you can take now to help protect your family and ag operation in the event of a hurricane. <https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/hurricane>



USDA to Invest \$3 Million to Support Cooperative Soil Science and Soil Survey Research

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service plans to invest \$3 million in partnerships to promote research that informs and improves soil surveys at the regional level, part of an ongoing effort to continue to provide critical data to the country. [Learn how to submit your proposal.](#)



June 2023 Interest Rates

Farm Operating- Direct 4.500%
Farm Operating - Microloan 4.500%
Farm Ownership - Direct 4.750%
Farm Ownership - Microloan 4.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct, Joint Financing 2.750%
Farm Ownership - Down Payment 1.500%
Emergency Loan - Amount of Actual Loss 3.750%

Dates to Remember

July 14, 2023 - Deadline to apply for the [Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program \(PARP\)](#) and the [Emergency Relief Program \(ERP\)](#)

September 30, 2023 - Deadline for Floriculture, Aquaculture & Christmas Tree producers to apply for the 2023 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Oct. 31, 2023 - Deadline to apply for [Organic Certification Cost Share Program \(OCCSP\)](#) for fiscal year 2023



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

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