



May 2011

Guam County FSA Office

400 Route 8 Suite 306
Maite, Guam 96910

Phone: 671-472-7568
Fax: 671-472-7580

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Guam County Committee

Ernest Wusstig
Chairperson

Brian Leon Guerrero
Vice-Chairperson

Norman Aguilar
Member

CNMI County Committee

Ramon Camacho
Chairperson

Samson Palacios
Vice-Chairperson

James Manglona
Member

Staff

Thomas Camacho
County Executive Director

Fred San Nicolas
Assistant Manager, Farm
Loan Programs

Ilene Quitugua
Program Technician
Farm Programs

Doreen Rivera
Program Technician
Farm Loan Programs

OUR OFFICE NUMBERS HAVE CHANGED

The current numbers are as follows:

Main Line: 671-472-7568

Thomas Camacho: 671-300-8550

Ilene Quitugua: 671-300-8551

Doreen Rivera: 671-300-8552

Fred San Nicolas: 671-300-8553

Fax Number: 671-472-7580

County Committee Elections

The annual election for the Farm Service Agency County Committee is coming up. Any person or group can nominate a qualified producer on the attached form FSA-669A. Producers can also nominate themselves. Nominees must be qualified to vote in the election.

This year, Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1-3 and LAA 3 will be electing a representative to the Committee. LAA 1-3 consists of all ranches and farms located in parts of Yona (South of Route 17), Santa Rita, Agat, Umatac, Marizo, Inarajan, and Talofofo. LAA 3 Consists of the Island of Tinian.

If your farm is located in this area you may be an eligible candidate or voter. Contact the Guam County FSA Office if you would like to be added to the slate of candidates, confirm your voting eligibility, or be added to the eligible voter list. Any eligible farmer or rancher may request a ballot from FSA if they don't receive one in the mail. If you would like to be added to the slate of nominees your nomination form (FSA-669A) must be received or postmarked by August 1.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 4. Ballots must be returned or post marked to the Guam County FSA Office by December 5. Ballots will be counted by December 12. Please follow the voting instructions carefully. **Only signed ballots will be counted.**

The FSA County Committee is an important link between national USDA programs and local farmers. As part of the Committee, members will make important decisions on the needs of local farm programs. All farm owners, operators, tenants and sharecroppers of legal voting age are eligible to serve on the County Committee and vote in the elections.

If you don't receive a ballot in the mail by mid-November, contact the FSA office and we will mail you a ballot or make arrangements to have you come in and complete a walk-in ballot.

Elections are open to all eligible candidates and voters without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status or disability.

FSA is committed to diversity on County Committees and encourages the participation of minority, female and other under-represented and under-served producers. To find out more about the FSA County Committee contact the Maui County FSA office or visit our website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Compensation for Claims of Discrimination

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. This means you may be eligible if:

1. you sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing during that period;
2. and the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, or approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and
3. you believe these actions were based on your being Hispanic, or your being female.

If you want to register your name to receive a claims packet, you can call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the following website: www.farmerclaims.gov

In 2011, a claims administrator will begin mailing claims packages to those who have requested one through the Call Center or website. The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.

For guidance, you may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider in your community. If you are currently represented by counsel regarding allegations of discrimination or in a lawsuit claiming discrimination, you should contact your counsel regarding this claims process.

USDA cannot provide legal advice to you.

Disaster Program Sign Up

Applications are being accepted for the 2009 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program. SURE is a disaster program to assist farmers and ranchers who have experienced losses caused by natural disasters.

To be eligible for SURE a farm must have:

- A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops.
- Be physically located in a county that was declared a disaster by the Secretary of Agriculture. Without a Secretarial disaster designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster.
- At least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance.

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a crop insurance policy or NAP coverage.

NAP Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed at the FSA office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is your first year in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable and need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

NAP Loss Filing

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing the Notice of Loss is required for ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

AGI and the IRS

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the verification report that IRS sends to FSA.

The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices.

Measurement Service

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility. Farmers who would like to guarantee the accuracy of their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service.

Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm. This measurement service uses digital imagery and where an on-site visit is not required, charges are reduced. Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU covering their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge, providing accurate acreage of an entire field.

Did Your Bank Change?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are now electronically transferred into your bank account. If we are not aware of changes to your account and have incorrect routing numbers, there could be problems. For FSA to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with credit to meet their business needs. Farmers having trouble getting the credit they need have direct loan options.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner prior to production credit needs.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

Section 9007 of the 2008 Farm Bill established a grant, loan, and loan guarantee program to assist eligible farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses in purchasing renewable energy systems and for making energy efficiency improvements.

Eligible projects include those that derive energy from a wind, solar, biomass, or geothermal source, or hydrogen derived from biomass or water using wind, solar, or geothermal energy sources. Awards will be made on a competitive basis for the purchase of renewable energy systems and to make energy improvements. Energy Efficiency improvements could include replacing diesel irrigation motors, upgrading poultry houses, or retrofitting tobacco barns with new burners. Installing more installation, new HVAC systems or more efficient windows for rural small businesses can also be eligible for grant funds.

To find out more about the REAP Program please contact Anthony Barcinas at 671-300-8567 or Joseph Diego at 671-300-8560.

ATTENTION FARMERS, RANCHERS and FOREST LAND OWNERS

Take advantage of this open application season and **APPLY NOW** for these US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Bill Programs.

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) - Outlines practices a producer is ready, willing, and able to install.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) - Provides payment for good conservation being applied to the land and for additional activities that the farmer adopts.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) – Provides part of the payment for practice installation outline in a conservation plan. All private landowners or operators who work on agricultural or forest land are encouraged to apply for this USDA-NRCS conservation program.

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) NEW!!

NRCS is now accepting applications for the Wetland Reserve Program to be considered for the next ranking and funding period. WRP provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands.

WRP provides a payment to purchase a permanent or 30 year easement for a wetland or enter into a restoration cost share agreement. SIGN UP TODAY!!

Call your USDA-NRCS Field Office contacts James Eller, District Conservationist, 670.233.3415 (CNMI) and Jocelyn Bamba, District Conservationist, 671.735.2111(GUAHAN) to schedule a meeting to talk about your farm, ranch or jungle.

USDA, Farm Service Agency
400 Route 8, Suite 306
Maite, Guam 96910



Selected Interest Rates for	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Direct Farm Operating Loans	2.625%
Direct Farm Ownership and Conservation Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10-yr	3.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12-yr	3.750%

Dates to Remember	
June 15	COC Nomination period begins
August 1	COC Nomination Forms (FSA-669A) Due at the FSA Office
September 1	NAP Sign-up Deadline for Aquaculture
December 1	NAP Sign-up Deadline for Fruits & Vegetables
December 5	Last day to return COC Ballots to FSA Office

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.