



December 2010

GUAM and CNMI FSA News

USDA Guam FSA

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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

County Staff

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Guam County Committee

Ernest Wusstig

Chairperson, North

Brian Leon Guerrero

Vice Chairperson, South

Enrique T. Guerrero

Member, Central

CNMI County Committee

Ramon Camacho

Chairperson, Saipan

Samson Palacios

Vice Chairperson, Tinian

James Manglona

Member, Rota



USDA Farm Services Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff all work closely to support the coordinated delivery of USDA programs and services across all islands in the Marianas. In addition to FSA and NRCS programs, another USDA-NRCS opportunity to address resource needs of private landowners and small businesses is found in the Marianas Resource Conservation and Development program or RC&D. For more information about RC&D programs and services, contact: Mr. Mark Defley, Marianas RC&D program coordinator at 671.472.7447.

NAP Acreage and Production Reporting Deadline

For any covered crop acreage for which an application for coverage is filed, a producer must keep acceptable contemporaneous records created at the time of planting and through the harvest of the crop for the full period of coverage. These records must include date and location, and according to crop type grouping on the unit, the amount of:

- acreage planted
- production appraised and harvested.

Note: For harvested production the producer must provide an explanation of disposition including where and when sold

NAP Reporting Requirements

When loss occurs, producers are required to report acreage planted and production harvested from those acres that existed at the time of disaster. This information must be provided at the time notice of loss is filed and shall be captured on the CCC-576 application for payment.

Note: The County Office shall obtain this information from the contemporaneous record kept. A photocopy of the map shall be attached to CCC-576 delineating the crop acreage affected by disaster.

At the end of the crop year, all producers will be required to summarize acreage planted during the crop year and actual production (harvested and appraised) from those acres, no later than **March 31** of the subsequent crop year. If the report is for any annual or

perennial crop where production continued or could have continued beyond the period covered in the reports, then an additional report of production shall be filed the later of:

- within 30 days of the end of the last countable production for the covered crop
- 30 days after the last date on which such production could have been obtained.

Note: Claims for losses before the reporting date cannot be calculated until all production is submitted.

Acreage shall be reported on FSA-578. Actual production shall be certified on the CCC-452.

Ballot Counting

The Guam and Saipan County Committee Election ballots were counted on December 10, 2010 at 10:00a.m. at the USDA Guam Farm Service Agency Office. The unofficial results are as follows:

- Guam-LAA 1-2:Norman Aguilar
- Saipan-LAA 2-2:Ramon B. Camacho

BCAP Update

Instructions for Biomass Conversion Facilities (BCFs) to become approved BCAP-certified facilities are anticipated in the next few weeks. The actual Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) or agreement will be similar to the first pilot phase program but new language that will address requirements of the new regulation. Biomass Conversion Facilities may wish to contact the FSA office in their state to make sure they are notified when this information is received. BCFs and interested producers can also watch the national website for further BCAP information at www.fsa.usda.gov under Energy Programs.

All BCFs must complete the MOU and submit it, along with any other documents or permits required by the notice. This is the first step in the BCAP process. Additional notices dealing with project area proposals and new procedure on the harvest, transportation portion or matching payment program are also scheduled to be released shortly. The new BCAP regulation has significant changes in required conservation plans, fair market value and eligible material that will be explained in the Notice.

IRS Form 1099-G

Each year producers receive 1099-G forms from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) detailing payments producers have received from the CCC. CCC's annual report of program payments on the 1099-Gs helps our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producer's own responsibility to report income to the IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

If you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan, ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee.

Direct farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained from FSA for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that the application and loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Conservation Loan Program

The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the funds to implement conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices. Examples of some conservation practices are: water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters and other installations.

For more information on a potential Conservation Loan, call the local FSA office and make an appointment with a loan officer.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate 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.

Many farm and even city families have found the Youth Loan program an excellent means to introduce the next generation to the business of agriculture. Is there someone in your family who may qualify?

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA sets aside targeted funding to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 % of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Loans for Women & Minorities

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for Farm Service Agency loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for women and minorities.

Eligible minority groups include American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders & Hispanics.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Both operating loans and loans for the purchase or improvement of farms or ranches are available under this targeted funding.

Conservation Stewardship Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) is accepting applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) from now through **January 7, 2011** to be considered for the next ranking and funding period.

USDA-NRCS Field Office contacts are: James Eller, District Conservationist, 670.236.0881 (CNMI) and Jocelyn Bamba, District Conservationist, 671.735.4108 (GUAHAN). All CNMI and Guam private landowners are encouraged to apply for this USDA-NRCS land stewardship program.

CSP offer payments to farmers, ranchers and foresters who maintain a high level of conservation on their land (leased or owned) and who agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland and private forestland. The program provides for continuous sign-up throughout the year with announced cut-off dates for ranking of applications. The program provides many conservation benefits recognizing your conservation work to support and improve water and soil quality, wildlife habitat as well as the adoption of new stewardship practices addressing the effects of climate change.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) is accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to be considered for the next ranking and funding period. Local Field Office contacts are: James Eller, District Conservationist, 670.236.0881 (CNMI) and Jocelyn Bamba, District Conservationist, 671.735.4108 (GUAHAN). All private landowners who work on agricultural or forest land are encouraged to apply for this USDA-NRCS conservation program.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis for EQIP. EQIP provides a payment rate of the estimated cost for contracted and installed NRCS conservation practices. The ranking deadlines for EQIP applications for Guam and the CNMI are: January 14, 2011, February 16, 2011, March 21, 2011, and May 18, 2011. EQIP supports addressing many critical resource is-

sues present in the islands. These include water quality and soil condition on crop and forest land, invasive species, habitat management for native birds, insects and plants and other important resource issues related to the management of land to enhance livestock operations for carabao, cattle, pigs, goats and honey bees.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

Paper Check Conversion (PCC)

Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) are moving to an electronic method for processing checks from producers. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster. When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) and debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt.

Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the USDA Service Center office or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

**Guam County FSA Office
400 Route 8, Suite 306
Maite, Guam 96910**



Selected Interest Rates - December 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Conservation Loan	4.125%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility 7-year Loan Term	2.000%
Farm Storage Facility 10-year Loan Term	2.750%
Farm Storage Facility 12-year Loan Term	3.000%

Dates to Remember	
Dec. 6,	County Committee ballots due back to County Office
Dec. 24	Christmas Holiday-Offices Closed
Dec. 31	New Years Eve – Offices Closed
March 31, 2011	NAP Acreage and Production Report

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, 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, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.