

March 2021



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

GovDelivery

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

Table of Contents

- [U.S. Department of Agriculture Announces Key Leadership in Farm Production and Conservation Mission Area](#)
- [Acreage Reporting Dates](#)
- [Let USDA Help You Prepare for Tax Season](#)
- [HealthCare.gov Insurance Enrollment Available through May 15](#)
- [Report Banking Changes to FSA](#)
- [Sign in/Sign up for an Online Account](#)
- [March 2021 Interest Rates](#)
- [Dates to Remember](#)
- [Sign Up Today for Text Alerts from FSA](#)

Hawaii & Pacific Basin FSA State Office

PJJK Federal Building
P.O. Box 50065
300 Ala Moana Blvd, Rm 5-108
Honolulu, HI 96850

Phone: 808-541-2600 x 2
FAX: 855-356-9493

Acting State Executive Director:
Shirley Nakamura

Acting Chief Program Specialist:
Kristen Kiriu

U.S. Department of Agriculture Announces Key Leadership in Farm Production and Conservation Mission Area

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the appointment of Gloria Montaño Greene as Deputy Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) and the appointment of Zach Ducheneaux as Administrator of the Farm Service Agency (FSA). They began their positions on Monday, Feb. 22.

Montaño Greene is a former State Executive Director for FSA in Arizona from 2014-2017. With FSA in Arizona, Montaño Greene led implementation of the

Chief, Farm Loan Program:
Theresa Correa

Upcoming County Committee Meetings:

Hawaii County Committee
May 7, 2021 at 8:30am

Honolulu County Committee
March 19, 2021 at 3:30pm

Maui County Committee
March 18, 2021 at 8:30am

Kauai County Committee
March 17, 2021 at 9:00am

Guam County Committee
April 20, 2021 at 9:00 am

CNMI County Committee
April 21, 2021 at 9:00 am

Contact the County Office to confirm meeting date and time, as budget constraints may limit the County Committee's ability to meet each month.

Click here for a list of County Offices, contact numbers and addresses: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Hawaii/service-centers/index>

Website for Hawaii and Pacific Basin
FSA: www.fsa.usda.gov/hi

2013 Farm Bill programs across the state. Currently, she serves as Deputy Director for Chispa Arizona, a program of the League of Conservation Voters focused on the empowerment of Latino voices in Arizona on issues including energy, public lands and democracy access. She served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief of Staff to Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva of Arizona. She is a graduate of the University of Arizona.

Ducheneaux is the current Executive Director of the Intertribal Agriculture Council, the largest, longest-standing Native American agriculture organization in the U.S. The Council represents all Federally Recognized Tribes and serves 80,000 Native American producers. He has been with the Council since the 1990s in various leadership positions, including as former tribal council representative for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. Ducheneaux has spent his career educating people about the critical role of improved food systems, value-added agriculture, and foreign exports to respond to the enduring economic and social challenges facing Native Americans and reservations. He also serves on the board of directors for Project H3LP!, a nonprofit founded by his family to benefit his local community by providing life lessons and therapy through horsemanship. He operates his family's ranch on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in north central South Dakota with his brothers.

Acres Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

Acres reporting dates vary by crop and by county so please contact your local FSA office for a list of county-specific deadlines.

The following exceptions apply to acres reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the applicable acres reporting date, then the acres must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of “cover only,” “green manure,” “left standing,” or “seed,” then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the applicable dates or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local FSA office.

Let USDA Help You Prepare for Tax Season

If you participate in USDA programs, including our farm loan program, it's time to start preparing for tax season. USDA technical assistance is free, but it is important to not overlook USDA payments when calculating your taxes. USDA issues documentation for your taxes, including 1098 forms for USDA farm loans and 1099 forms for farmer payments. Whether you are filing your taxes on your own or working with a professional accountant or tax preparer, you have 24/7 access to your loan information through a new feature on [Farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov).

The “My Financial Information” portal makes it easier for customers to track loan transactions and payments and saves trips to the USDA service center to obtain loan-related information. It enables you to view:

- Loans and financial information.
- Interest payments (including year-to-date interest paid for the past five years).
- Loan history.
- Paid-in-full and restructured loans, and alerts. For example, an account alert will be displayed if a loan is past due.

To access your loan information, visit farmers.gov and sign into the site's authenticated portal, available on the menu at the top right of the site. To use the portal, you will need a Level 2 USDA eAuthentication account. If you do not have a Level 2 USDA eAuthentication account, [you can sign up for one here](#).

Loan information retrieved from the “My Financial Information” portal should be compared to your records and reviewed with your tax preparer if you are working with one. Contact your [local USDA Service Center](#) if you have questions about the information on My Financial Information.

Currently, only producers doing business as an individual can view information. Entities, such as an LLC or Trust, or producers doing business on behalf of another customer cannot access the portal at this time, but access is being planned. Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox and Microsoft Edge are the recommended browsers to access the feature.

As you are preparing your taxes, here is a checklist of things to do or consider:

- Gather all 1098, 1099 and other tax forms issued by USDA.
- If you have a Farm Loan, visit the self-service website at the top right corner of farmers.gov to view your loan information, history, and payments.

- Crop insurance proceeds must be included in your farm income.
- Farmers can deduct certain conservation-related expenses. According to the IRS, you may deduct up to 25 percent of your gross farm income for conservation expenses.

Keeping good expense records will help you and your tax preparer determine the tax deductions you may claim. Here are some helpful websites to help you compile the record

- <https://www.irs.gov/publications/p225> (Publication 225 (2019), Farmer's Tax Guide)
- <https://newfarmers.usda.gov/taxes> (New farmer resources from USDA)
- <https://ffsc.org> (Record keeping assistance)

The “My Financial Information” portal on Farmers.gov is just one of many features designed to help you manage your loans. The USDA team building farmers.gov prioritized this feature based on feedback from USDA field-level staff and customers. Being able to access loan information and payment history online will help you with this year’s taxes, and future features will continue to expand your self-service opportunities.

HealthCare.gov Insurance Enrollment Available through May 15

HealthCare.gov has opened a Special Enrollment Period from now through May 15 for people seeking health insurance. You may be eligible for financial assistance or have access to plans of \$50 or less. [Learn more at HealthCare.gov.](#)

Report Banking Changes to FSA

Farm Service Agency (FSA) program payments are issued electronically into your bank account. In order to receive timely payments, you need to notify your FSA servicing office if you close your account or if your bank information is changed for any reason (such as your financial institution merging or being purchased). Payments can be delayed if FSA is not notified of changes to account and bank routing numbers.

For some programs, payments are not made until the following year. For example, payments for crop year 2019 through the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage program aren’t paid until 2020. If the bank account was closed due to the death of an individual or dissolution of an entity or partnership before the payment was issued, please notify your local FSA office as soon as possible to claim your payment.

Sign in/Sign up for an Online Account

Farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers have online options to access USDA programs. Through USDA’s new streamlined process, producers doing business **as an individual** can now register, track and manage their applications for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) on the secure and convenient farmers.gov. Producers doing business as an individual first need to sign up for the Level 2 eAuthentication access. Currently USDA eAuthentication does not have the mechanism to issue accounts to businesses, corporations, other entities or for anyone acting on behalf of another individual or entity.

- Step 1: Create an online account at eauth.usda.gov
- Step 2: Complete identity verification by either using the online self-service identity verification method or by completing the identity verification in-person at your USDA Service Center.
- Step 3: You're enrolled
- Step 4: Contact your local USDA Service Center to have your new Level 2 account linked with your USDA customer record
- Step 5: You're ready to Log In

Or go to your local USDA Service Center and our supportive staff will help you sign up for Level 2 Access right in the office! They will get you online so you can create an online account at farmers.gov/sign-in. You'll complete identity verification right on the spot. You're enrolled! Users with a secure Level 2 eAuthentication ID linked to their USDA customer record can apply for select USDA programs, view and print farm maps and farm records data. Enrolling is easy! Visit farmers.gov/sign-in to learn more.

To locate a service center near you or use online services not requiring eAuthentication access, visit farmers.gov. For technical assistance, call the eAuthentication help desk at 1-800-457-3642.

March 2021 Interest Rates

Farm Operating Loans 1.375%

Farm Ownership Loans 2.750%

Farm Ownership Loans Direct Down Payment for Beginning Farmer or Rancher 1.500%

Emergency Loans 2.375%

Dates to Remember

March 15, 2021 - Acreage reporting deadline for coffee

March 26, 2021 - Second round application deadline for NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program, [click here for more information](#)

March 31, 2021 - Acreage reporting deadline the subsequent year for crops covered by the Non-Insured Crops Disaster Assistance Program, fruits and vegetables. Contact your county office for a full list of crops and acreage reporting deadlines.

Sign Up Today for Text Alerts from FSA

Subscribers Can Receive Important Program Reminders and Updates

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) farmers and ranchers now can receive notifications from their county office through text messages on their cell phone.

Whether producers are in the field, on a tractor or even on horseback, this service enables FSA customers and stakeholders to receive notifications while on the go. Producers will receive text

messages regarding important program deadlines, reporting requirements, outreach events and updates.

Producers can text the **short codes** below to FSANOW (372-669) to subscribe to text message alerts from their respective counties. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.

Hawaii County : **HPBHawaii**
Honolulu County: **HPBHonolulu**
Kauai County: **HPBKauai**
Maui County: **HPBMaui**

Please contact your [local FSA office](#) if you have questions regarding FSA's email news service or the text message option.

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

 SHARE



Questions?
[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Preferences](#) | [Delete Profile](#) | [Help](#)