

September 2017 – Events and Announcements

Dear Growers and Friends,

Little Fire Ant:

Save the date - Tuesday, September 12, 2017 - A **Little Fire Ant (LFA) Workshop** will be held at the Kona Cooperative Extension Service Conference Room and co-hosted by the Hawaii Ant Lab and Kona Coffee Farmers Association. A flyer will be forthcoming.

LFA on farms (properties and homes) is becoming a more common occurrence in West Hawaii. I recently visited an organic coffee farm with LFA and the extent of the infestation was quite severe. At this farm, the ants were “farming” green scales in the trees and affecting the farm manager and pickers. Unfortunately, there currently are no known effective certified organic treatments for LFA, but there are treatments and protocols that are effective for control and preventing establishment.

These ants can easily be transported from site to site on almost anything – wood, potted plants, fruit clusters or bunches, tools, machinery, rocks, mulch, etc. All it takes is one mated queen to initiate a new infestation. And since LFA live as a network of small colonies that can extend from under rocks to tree tops, topical sprays WILL NOT control these ants. Baits that get back to the heart of the colony must be used in combination with other control tactics.

Please visit the [Hawaii Ant Lab's](http://www.littlefireants.com) website (www.littlefireants.com). There, you will find information about:

- **How to – Checking your property for LFA** (<http://bit.ly/2gsC5Lo>)
- **Risk management protocol for green-waste facilities** (<http://bit.ly/2emSop6>)
- **Determining which LFA bait is right for your situation** (<http://bit.ly/2emSJbm>)
 - If you are unsure, contact the Hawaii Ant Lab and explain your situation.
- **Big Island pest control contact list** (<http://bit.ly/1QWfwtV>)
- **Frequently asked questions** (<http://bit.ly/2wm51u0>)
- **And more...**

LFA samples may be brought to your nearest [Cooperative Extension Service Office](#) or to the Hawaii Ant Lab.

- **Locations and contacts for CES Offices** - <http://bit.ly/2iLsm3B>
- **Location and contact for the Hawaii Ant Lab** - <http://bit.ly/2iLEVw0>

New CTAHR Publications:

[A Soil Phosphorus Primer for Hawaiian Soils](http://bit.ly/2wmmmTK) (<http://bit.ly/2wmmmTK>)

[Insect and Mite Pests of Blueberries in Hawaii](http://bit.ly/2xBqyxq) (<http://bit.ly/2xBqyxq>)

-Andrea

UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Offices will be closed on the following day:

Monday, September 4th, in observance of Labor Day

Visit <http://hawaiicoffee.weebly.com/events-and-announcements.html> for additional information on the following events, announcements and more.

HOFA - Biodigester Workshop - Kona

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Doug Pittman Farm, Milolii area

Meet and carpool from Kealahou Ranch Center

South Kona Farmer Doug Pittman will lead participants in making a biodigester to create fuel from green waste on their farms. Pittman will demonstrate how to construct the digester, feed it with vegetable matter, inoculate the slurry, and use the resulting methane gas and fertilizer. This workshop is sponsored by the Hawaii Organic Farmers' Association (HOFA). The cost is \$25 (\$20 for HOFA members). We will meet in Captain Cook (at 8:00 am) in the lower, south end of the parking lot at Kealahou Ranch Center and carpool to Pittman's farm in the Milolii area. Please call Una Greenaway at 808-328-8888 to register or visit www.hawaiiorganic.org.

GoFarm Hawaii - AgCurious Seminar - Honokaa

Thursday, September 14, 2017

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

North Hawaii Education & Research Center

45-539 Plumeria Street

Honokaa, HI 96727

RSVP names of attendees to: derrick@gofarmhawaii.org or (808) 220-2312

For more information about the seminar, view the flyer at <http://bit.ly/2eskWMH>. For program information, visit www.gofarmhawaii.org.

Chocex - Chocolate Expo - Shanghai, China

Friday - Sunday, November 24-26, 2017

9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Shanghai World Expo Exhibition and Convention Center

1099 Guo Zhan Rd, Pudong Xinqu, Shanghai Shi, China

For more information about the event, view the Expo Invitation (<http://bit.ly/2wqzd5X>) or visit www.chocex.win/.

Job Opportunity with CTAHR - Kamuela

If you've ever considered working with CTAHR and Cooperative Extension in Kamuela, here's your chance! The OFFICE ASSISTANT III (Kamuela)(SR-08) - Hawaii Island position is now open for recruitment at the DHRD website.

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/hawaii?keywords=217415>

Job Announcement - CTAHR - Part-time - Oahu

Dr. Noa Lincoln is looking for a greenhouse manager for Hawaiian crops, ideally one interested in working over a period of two years for the duration of several projects.

Responsibilities include taking care of 'ulu, 'awa, ko, and other kupuna crops; propagating stem-tip cuttings using a mist system; conducting scientific research on facultative nitrogen fixation; managing a nutrient-deficiency trial; documenting proceedings in writing and photographs; and maintaining the greenhouse in clean and orderly fashion.

A background in Hawaiian crops and/or chemistry is preferred but not required. The position is for either a student or non-student. If interested, email nlincoln@hawaii.edu.

CTAHR - Looking for Citizen Scientists - Adopt an Ulu!

Aloha,

We are writing to you to join our mission to localize food production by supporting breadfruit as an emerging crop in Hawai'i! We are seeking citizen scientists to help us learn more about breadfruit by adopting a local tree and observing it.

About the project:

This is a state-wide, volunteer-based project aiming to collect information about the phenology of breadfruit. Phenology is the scientific study of biological phenomena such as fruiting, flowering, breeding, and migration in relation to climatic conditions. At the end of the three-year study, the information gathered will be made publicly available to support efforts in breadfruit production.

How it works:

Volunteers sign up to be citizen scientists and make observations about their adopted tree. Participants will create a tree(s) profile(s), make bi-weekly observations of their tree(s), and submit them online (or over the phone). After signing up, observations only take about 10 minutes of your time every other week!

Learn more:

Are you interested in conservation volunteer work and supporting local agriculture? Please visit [our website](http://ourwebsite.breadfruit-phenology.herokuapp.com), breadfruit-phenology.herokuapp.com, to sign up or contact Blaire J. Langston at the information listed below to learn more.

Much aloha,
Blair J. Langston
Graduate Assistant
University of Hawai'i of Mānoa
blairej@hawaii.edu
201-704-2020

USDA FSA - Reminder - Reporting Damage after a Natural Disaster Event

Since we are in hurricane season again, I would like to take this time to remind you to report any damages your farm or ranch sustains as a result of the natural disaster event. The report needs to be made within the first 24 hours of the disaster event if possible. This information will assist the Hawaii County Civil Defense and the Farm Service Agency in making the initial damage assessment. Report damages to Hawaii County Civil Defense at 808-935-0031 and 808-933-8381 USDA Farm Service Agency. Always remember safety first!

Name
Address
TMK
Phone Number
Damages sustained
Crop Loss (type of crop and in acres)
Animals Loss (type of animal and amount)
Agriculture Structures Loss (Buildings, Fence lines, Water Tanks, Irrigation, etc)

Lester Ueda
County Executive Director

USDA, Farm Service Agency

PO Box 845

Hilo, Hawaii 96721

Phone: [808.933.8341](tel:808.933.8341)

Fax: [1.855.356.9492](tel:1.855.356.9492)

Email: lester.ueda@hi.usda.gov

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USDA FSA - RTCP Sign Up is Ongoing

Sign up for RTCP by September 8, 2017. Don't be late. Turn in Payment documentation by November 3, 2017.

Program Helps Offset Cost for Farmers and Ranchers Outside the Contiguous U.S.

The Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program (RTCP) for fiscal year 2017 began on July 17, 2017, and will end on September 8, 2017.

The 2014 Farm Bill reauthorized RTCP, which offsets a portion of the costs of transporting agricultural products over long distances. The program allows farmers and ranchers in Alaska, Hawaii and insular areas including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Virgin Islands of the United States, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Republic of Palau, to recover any transportation costs.

This program helps U.S. farmers and ranchers outside the 48 contiguous states who are at a competitive disadvantage when transporting agriculture products to market.

RTCP payments are calculated based on the costs incurred for transportation of the agricultural commodity or inputs during a fiscal year, subject to an \$8,000 per producer cap per fiscal year. In the event that claims for payments exceed the funds available from the program for a fiscal year, payments will be reduced on a pro-rata basis.

For more information on RTCP, farmers and ranchers in the eligible areas can visit their administrative FSA county office or the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport.

To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Oahu County, Cooperative Extension Service Online - Rat Lungworm Alert

Hawaii State Department of Health confirmed a case of rat lungworm on Oahu yesterday. This is the first case on Oahu since 2010. Officials are still determining the source of the individual's infection. The disease is caused by the parasitic nematode, *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, which can be transmitted onto produce by certain animals like snails and slugs.

We have been receiving an influx of inquiries about rat lungworm and how it affects fresh produce due to the recent increase in rat lungworm cases in Hawaii. Please find more information about rat lungworm at the websites below.

CTAHR Farm Food Safety website, <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ctahr/farmfoodsafety/rat-lungworm/>

Department of Health, <http://bit.ly/2pmfZhk>

Department of Agriculture, <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/blog/main/rat-lungworm-information/>

Commercial Slug and Snail Control Product List (CTAHR), <http://bit.ly/2wIH2eu>

Washing Produce Publication (CTAHR), <http://bit.ly/2wMjnFo>

CTAHR Notes

Issue 325, August 9, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2vvnHsD>

In this issue:

- Hope for Alzheimer's Studies
- Giving Back to the Soil
- Greenhouses for Green Production
- Follow that Fish!
- and more...

P&A Coffee Newsletter - Confidential

To view the newsletter, <http://bit.ly/2glUvtE>. In this issue:

- Private Coffee Stocks Fell 27%
- Coffee Berry Borer Infestation Rising
- Organic Coffee Packages to be Produced with Green Plastic
- Coke to Enter Brazilian Coffee Market
- Coffee Exports Decrease Due to Adverse Weather
- **Outlook:** Will Brazil Produce 63 Or 75 Million Bags in 2026? (Page 3)
- **Machine Of The Month:** Cocoa Processing Equipment (Page 4)