

Kona Cooperative Extension – Events and Announcements Newsletter

Volume 8-1, August 2020

Dear Growers and Friends,

Below is an important message from Glenn Sako (County of Hawaii) regarding Farm Workers.

COVID-19 Information for Farm Workers

Dear Association Presidents, Chemical Distribution Managers and technical assistance personnel,

The State of Hawai'i is in the midst of a severe outbreak of COVID-19, which threatens to shut down our state again.

The County of Hawai'i has received reports of hired farm workers traveling to Hawai'i County and giving incorrect farm addresses and not adhering to the self-quarantine requirements.

These workers are being brought in to harvest coffee and other agricultural crops. They are considered "Essential" workers and are allowed to work on the host farm that they are staying at during their self-quarantine period and must follow the face covering and social distancing requirements. If the work on the host farm is completed during the self-quarantine period, the worker(s) may break self-quarantine to only work on farms, no other activities are allowed. They must wear face covering and maintain social distancing and return to their self-quarantine location. The host of the guest worker(s) is responsible for the adherence to the self-quarantine requirements.

I have attached posters with this information and they are in English, Spanish and Marshallese. Please forward them to all of your contacts in the agricultural industries.

- English - <https://bit.ly/3h7iRFB>
- Spanish - <https://bit.ly/34aiRRU>
- Marshallese - <https://bit.ly/3h8KYUU>

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UH CTahr Cooperative Extension Offices was closed on the following days:

Friday, August 21st, in observance of Statehood Day

Visit <https://www.hawaiicoffeeed.com/events-and-announcements> for additional information on the following events, announcements and more.

First HLB Bacteria Found in California Commercial Citrus Grove

An Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) sample – confirmed positive for *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLas), the bacteria that causes Huanglongbing (HLB) – was recently collected from a commercial citrus grove in the Woodcrest area of Riverside County in California.

The find, a single adult psyllid, which was reported Friday by California’s Citrus Research Board (CRB), was confirmed by the CRB’s Jerry Dimitman Laboratory. It is the first CLas-positive ACP found in a commercial citrus grove in California.

To continue reading visit <https://bit.ly/2Y9yEw9>

New USDA Survey to Measure Areas for Improvement

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7, 2020 – WASHINGTON, August 7, 2020 –The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced a new annual survey of farmers, ranchers and private forestland owners. The survey will help USDA understand what it is doing well and where improvements are needed, specifically at the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

A selection of 28,000 producers will receive the survey over the next few weeks, but all farmers are encouraged to take the survey at farmers.gov/survey

USDA Announces More Eligible Commodities for CFAP

(Washington, D.C., Aug. 11, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced today that additional commodities are covered by the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) in response to public comments and data. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending the deadline to apply for the program to September 11th, and producers with approved applications will receive their final payment. After reviewing over 1,700 responses, even more farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity for assistance to help keep operations afloat during these tough times.

“President Trump is standing with America’s farmers and ranchers to ensure they get through this pandemic and continue to produce enough food and fiber to feed America and the world. That is why he authorized this \$16 billion of direct support in the CFAP program and today we are pleased to add additional commodities eligible to receive much needed assistance,” **said Secretary Perdue**. “CFAP is just one of the many ways USDA is helping producers weather the impacts of the pandemic. From deferring payments on loans to adding flexibilities to crop insurance and reporting deadlines, USDA has been leveraging many tools to help producers.”

Background:

USDA collected comments and supporting data for consideration of additional commodities through June 22, 2020. The following additional commodities are now eligible for CFAP:

- **Specialty Crops** - aloe leaves, bananas, batatas, bok choy, carambola (star fruit), cherimoya, chervil (french parsley), citron, curry leaves, daikon, dates, dill, donqua (winter melon), dragon fruit (red pitaya), endive, escarole, filberts, frisee, horseradish, kohlrabi, kumquats, leeks, mamey sapote, maple sap (for maple syrup), mesculin mix, microgreens, nectarines, parsley,

persimmons, plantains, pomegranates, pummelos, pumpkins, rutabagas, shallots, tangelos, turnips/celeriac, turmeric, upland/winter cress, water cress, yautia/malanga, and yuca/cassava.

- **Non-Specialty Crops and Livestock** - liquid eggs, frozen eggs and all sheep. Only lambs and yearlings (sheep less than two years old) were previously eligible.
- **Aquaculture** - catfish, crawfish, largemouth bass and carp sold live as foodfish, hybrid striped bass, red drum, salmon, sturgeon, tilapia, trout, ornamental/tropical fish, and recreational sportfish.
- **Nursery Crops and Flowers** - nursery crops and cut flowers.

Other changes to CFAP include:

- Seven commodities – onions (green), pistachios, peppermint, spearmint, walnuts and watermelons – are now eligible for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act funding for sales losses. Originally, these commodities were only eligible for payments on marketing adjustments.
- Correcting payment rates for onions (green), pistachios, peppermint, spearmint, walnuts, and watermelons.

To view the full news release visit <https://bit.ly/31Zbj1A>

Hawaii Energy Launches Energy Relief Grant Program

Hawaii Energy has launched its Energy Relief Grant program that will award a total of \$1 million in funding for energy efficiency improvements for small businesses, non-profits and other qualifying organizations experiencing economic loss due to COVID-19.

Businesses and organizations may apply for the grant, which can cover 100 percent of eligible expenses on pre-approved energy efficiency projects, up to \$25,000.

Hawaii Energy will be hosting a virtual info session on **August 18 at 12 PM** for businesses interested in learning more about the program.

To register for this complimentary session visit <https://bit.ly/2PWWdnE>

O'ahu RC&D August News & Updates

In this issue:

- We Are Hiring! Join the O'ahu RC&D Team - <https://bit.ly/2Q23hiQ>
- Women Farmer Network - Summer Webinar Series Now Available - <https://bit.ly/3h8M6rC>
- Agri-Tourism Mini-Grants Available! - <https://bit.ly/3fZX7KA>
- ORCD Cacao Pruning Field Day
- Stream restoration moves ahead in Waimānalo
- Opportunities:
 - Concept to Consumer Food Incubator Program - <https://bit.ly/2Y9fFBQ>
 - U.S. Small Business Administration extends emergency relief funding deadline - <https://bit.ly/3iS9fiO>
- Access to Local Food & Produce: Find your local farmers and CSA's and buy directly from them

- <https://bit.ly/31XL8s8>
 - Updated O'ahu Soil Water Conservation District Meeting Schedule
 - Windward O'ahu SWCD Meeting: August 20, 6:00 pm - <https://bit.ly/321AtfL>
 - South O'ahu SWCD Meeting: August Meeting Cancelled
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Hawaii and Pacific Basin Farm Service Agency August 2020 Newsletter

To view the full newsletter visit <https://bit.ly/3av9sp4>

In this issue:

- USDA Investigates Packages of Unsolicited Seeds from China
 - Enrollment Period Begins for USDA's Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program
 - Additional Commodities Eligible for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program
 - USDA Microloans Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property
 - FSA Reminds Producers of Ongoing Disaster Assistance Program Signup
 - August 2020 Interest Rates
 - Sign Up Today for Text Alerts from FSA
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