

Kona Cooperative Extension – Events and Announcements Newsletter

Volume 12-1, December 2021

USDA Offers Disaster Assistance to Farmers and Livestock Producers in Hawaii Impacted by the December 4-8 Severe Rain and Wind

Honolulu, HI, Dec. 8, 2021 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides technical and financial assistance to help Hawai'i farmers and livestock producers recover from damages brought on by the December 4-8 severe rain and wind. Agricultural producers are encouraged to contact their local USDA Service Center to learn about the programs available to help them recover from crop, land, infrastructure, and livestock losses.



“USDA can be a very valuable partner to help landowners with their recovery efforts,” said Chad Cherefko, NRCS Acting Director for the Pacific Islands Area. “Our staff will work one-on-one with landowners to make assessments of the damages and develop approaches that focus on effective recovery of the land.”

NRCS programs include the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program (<https://bit.ly/3GtKXHE>), which provides assistance to local government sponsors with the cost of addressing watershed impairments or hazards such as debris removal and streambank stabilization. Sponsors must submit a formal request (via mail or email) to the Director for assistance within 60 days of the natural disaster occurrence or 60 days from the date when access to the sites is possible. For more information, please contact Ha Nguyen, Acting Assistant Director for Engineering, at Ha.Nguyen@usda.gov or (808) 600-2921.

More Information

On farmers.gov, the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool and Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet can help producers and landowners determine program options. For assistance contact your local USDA Service Center.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with NRCS should call ahead and

schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Our program delivery staff will continue to work with our producers by phone, email, and using online tools. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

Contact your local USDA Service Center at - <https://bit.ly/3DHVFIF>

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

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

Friday, December 24th, in observance of Christmas

Friday, December 31st, in observance of New Year's Day

ADSC Holiday Schedule for Submitting Samples

Happy Holidays,

Most of the ADSC personnel will be away from the laboratory and office during the last two weeks in December 2021. Therefore, Friday, December 10, 2021 is the last day to submit samples to the ADSC Office. The last day for the Extension Offices to ship samples to the ADSC office is Tuesday, December 7, 2021.

Normal sample submission will resume on Monday, January 3, 2022.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

Mahalo,
Sharon and the ADSC Staff

CTAHR HI Island: temporary ADSC Diagnostician position now open

Position #: 0081418T

Position Title: Research Associate Specialist

Ad Closing Date: December 17, 2021

University of Hawai'i NEOGOV: <http://bit.ly/2XoXPcp> and Search 81418T

UH NEOGOV Direct link: <https://bit.ly/3dz5cXR>

2021 Hawaii Cacao Survey

Aloha cacao farmers, chocolate-makers, extension agents, and supporters of Hawaii's cacao and chocolate industry.

Hawaii's cacao to chocolate industry is growing. We are requesting your help to estimate the size of Hawaii's cacao industry and to identify its priority issues. This information on cacao acreage and growth is important to all of us, as well as the legislature, the DOA and USDA, which provide funding and other critical resources for farmers. O'ahu RC&D and the University of Hawai'i Manoa, CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service are working together to conduct the 2021 Hawai'i Cacao Survey.

The survey takes about ten minutes to complete. We urge you to share the link to this survey with other cacao farmers and chocolate makers. Please only complete this survey once for each farm or business (if you operate more than one farm, you may submit a response for each farm).

Since 2010, this annual survey reports the growth of our cacao to chocolate industry. The survey mailing list is growing, but there are folks not on the list yet, so please forward this email or simply the link below to any members of the cacao to chocolate industry. We are circulating the survey much later in the year this time around and appreciate everyone's understanding that in this, as in many other cases, 2021 did not unfold the way we originally planned!

To complete the 2021 survey, visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/hicacao>. Responses will be accepted through December 21st, 2021.

Each year, the survey results are presented at Hawaii Chocolate and Cacao Association (HCCA) events and we will do our best to continue this practice (visit the HCCA website for more details <http://hawaiiichocolate.org/>).

Your response is voluntary and confidential. A summary of the survey will be shared with professors, extension agents, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, USDA and you - simply send an email request to erkirk@hawaii.edu. No individual information will be reported or released. Suggestions to improve the survey are welcome at the same email address.



Check out results from 2020!

We are releasing the results of the 2020 Hawaii Cacao Survey. Available for download here - <https://bit.ly/3IMnEAD>

Mahalo for your participation,
Dave and Emilie

Dave Elliott
O'ahu RC&D
dave@oahurcd.com

Emilie Kirk
Assistant Extension Agent - Sustainable and Organic Agriculture
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR)
Cooperative Extension Service - Kaua'i County
erkirk@hawaii.edu

Hawaii Coffee Association's 26th Annual Conference - Save the Date - May 19-21, 2022

Aloha, HCA Friends and Supporters!

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming 26th HCA Annual Conference & Cupping Competition. We are planning on hosting a live event on the Island of Hawaii at the beautiful Outrigger Kona Resort & Spa on the Kona coast.

More information about sponsorship opportunities, trade show and silent auction will be sent out soon. We hope to see you then!

-HCA Planning Committee

USDA Designates Kauai County, Hawaii, as a Primary Natural Disaster Area

LIHUE, Hawaii, December 2, 2021 - This Secretarial natural disaster designation allows the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters through emergency loans. Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation or the refinance of certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>), these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of 1) D2 Drought-Severe for 8 or more consecutive weeks or 2) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional.

Primary County Eligible: Kauai County

Triggering Disaster: Drought

Application Deadline: July 19, 2022

More Resources

On farmers.gov, the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool (<https://bit.ly/3DzTgjj>), Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet (<https://bit.ly/3rWSSJz>), and Farm Loan Discovery Tool (<https://bit.ly/3ya3ZQh>) can help you determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local USDA Service Center (<https://bit.ly/3yi1USn>).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

USDA Introduces "Micro Farm" - a New Insurance Policy for Farmers Who Sell Locally

Agricultural producers with small-scale farms who sell locally can now get simplified insurance coverage through a new policy designed for their needs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture developed the new Micro Farm policy, which simplifies recordkeeping and covers post-production costs like washing and value-added products. Read More: <https://bit.ly/3rSiAyQ>

Hawaii - Farm-Labor - November 2021

Download the pdf at <https://bit.ly/3y9i7t8>
