

Farm Service Agency U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA Offers Hawaii County Livestock Producers Impacted by Drought Disaster Assistance

News Release | Hawaii and Pacific Islands | April 12, 2022

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Hilo, Hawaii, April 12, 2022 — U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Hawaii County today announced that commercial ranchers and livestock producers can apply for assistance from the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) for grazing losses incurred in 2022.

"Drought conditions in Hawaii County have triggered availability of the Livestock Forage Disaster Program," said Keisan Tamura, County Executive Director. "LFP provides compensation to livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought. We encourage producers to contact our office for an appointment and to learn what records they need to have on hand in order to apply for assistance."

Tamura said the program covers full season improved pasture. For losses due to drought, an eligible livestock producer must own or lease grazing land or pastureland physically located in a county meeting drought intensity criteria rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor. A list of eligible counties for LFP drought may be found on the <u>FSA website</u>.

Eligible livestock include beef cattle, dairy cattle, goats, and sheep that have been or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land or pastureland during the normal grazing period.

Producers must provide a completed application and supporting documents to their FSA office within 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing loss occurred. Applicants should collect records documenting their losses and evidence that the grazing land or pastureland is owned or leased. Additional supporting documents include federal grazing permits and contract grower agreements.

For more information, contact the Hawaii County FSA office at 808-933-8338. Additional USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, including USDA resources specifically for producer impacted by <u>drought</u> and <u>wildfire</u> and the <u>Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool</u>, <u>Disasterat-a-Glance fact sheet</u>, and <u>Farm Loan Discovery Tool</u>. For FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, producers should contact their local USDA Service Center. For assistance with a

crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their crop insurance agent.

Farm Service Agency:

1400 Independence Ave. SW Washington, DC 20250

Contact:

FPAC Press Desk

FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov