

# AGRICULTURE

## Overview

The Disaster Declaration makes Hawai‘i eligible for disaster assistance resources through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Programs include low-interest emergency loans, financial assistance for crop losses, and financial and technical assistance to rehabilitate damaged farmland, pastureland, orchard trees, forests, and watersheds. USDA also provides help implementing conservation practices that can help mitigate loss from future disasters.

You can get started by using the USDA’s [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/disaster-tool) (<https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/disaster-tool>) to identify the type of assistance that matches your specific needs.

Here is a fact sheet on all USDA disaster assistance programs:

<https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/farmersgov-disaster-assistance-brochure-07-21-2022.pdf>

## Applying for USDA Assistance

Impacted agricultural producers can reach out to the following local USDA offices:

- **Farm Service Agency** should be the primary point of contact for all farmers and ranchers impacted by the disaster. Here is the local contact info: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Hawaii/service-centers/index>
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service** can provide [disaster assistance](#) to farmers, ranchers, and communities through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Technical Assistance, and the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. Here is the local contact info: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center?state=15&county=009>
- **Rural Development:** While the primary contact for rural communities impacted by a disaster should be FEMA, USDA Rural Development can provide [support to homeowners, businesses and communities](#) to aid in recovery and rebuilding. RD can be helpful in providing a long-term response to disasters—through repair to homes, essential community facilities and rural water systems. Here is the local contact info: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices/hi>

## Hawai‘i Emergency Agricultural Loan Program

The Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) has announced it will establish an emergency low-interest agricultural loan program to assist Maui and Hawai‘i Island farmers and ranchers. For agribusinesses needing loans of \$50,000 or less, micro-loans involving less paperwork and swifter processing are available. Loan applicants would need to provide estimates of losses and should document the damage with photos.

For more information and to begin the process of applying, you can contact HDOA’s Agricultural Loan Program on Oahu at (808) 973-9458.

## University of Hawaii Assistance for Agricultural Producers

The University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) has specialists available to help growers assess their losses and plan for recovery.

Maui County CTAHR Cooperative Extension Office

310 Kaahumanu Ave., Bldg. 214, Kahului, HI 96732  
(808) 244-3242 x222  
[kahului@ctahr.hawaii.edu](mailto:kahului@ctahr.hawaii.edu)