



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
HAWAII FIELD OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Still Time to Be Counted in the Hawaii Commercial Agricultural Expansion Survey

HONOLULU, HI, – July 29, 2021 – Agricultural producers still have time to respond to their Commercial Agricultural Expansion Survey, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). NASS will continue to accept responses through September.

The Commercial Agricultural Expansion Survey is being conducted in cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. The survey will assess Hawaii agricultural producers' interest in expanding their commercial production and identify barriers to expansion from more than 1,100 Hawaii farmers and ranchers. Funding for this project was made possible by an appropriation from the Hawaii State Legislature in 2020 to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

"The pandemic has renewed Hawaii's efforts to increase food self-sufficiency and improve its current level of food security," said NASS Hawaii State Statistician Shawn Clark. "The Hawaii Department of Agriculture will utilize the results in guiding government policies and developing financial assistance programs to assist commercial producers in expanding agriculture production."

In the survey, NASS asks participants to answer a variety of questions about their business profile, barriers to expansion, impact of expansion on the agricultural and state economy, and interest in expansion. Over the next couple of months, NASS will follow-up with phone calls to agricultural producers who have not yet responded. Survey participants are encouraged to complete their questionnaire online at agcounts.usda.gov or by mail.

In accordance with federal law, survey responses are kept confidential. Survey results will be available in aggregate form only to ensure that no individual producer or operation can be identified. NASS will compile, analyze, and publish survey results in the *Commercial Agricultural Production Expansion* report to be published in late October. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Hawaii Field Office at (808) 522-8080.

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NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

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