

OAHU COUNTY EXTENSION UPDATE



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Agricultural Extension Agents
September 2007

Tissue Cultured Bananas to be Distributed through HBIA

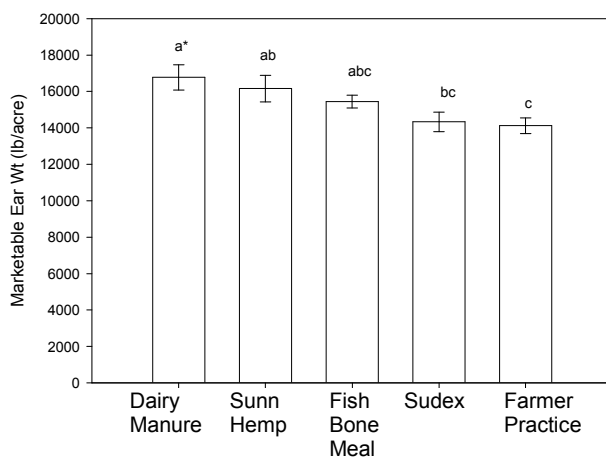
Non-transgenic tissue culture banana plants will soon be available through the Hawaii Banana Industry Association (HBIA).

UH CTAHR and HBIA are close to finalizing a distribution policy for plant distribution. The policy is intended to be fair and would allow growers to re-plant fields infected with the banana bunchy top virus with clean planting materials.

More information will be released once the policy is finalized. <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/bbtd/>

Revitalization of Agricultural Lands with Cover Crops and Manures

Soil Amendment Effect on Marketable Yield of Sweet Corn
Harvest Date: 8/15/2007



We have been working with extension specialist, Dr. Jonathan Deenik, to evaluate the effects of cover crops and manures on re-vitalizing Oahu's farmlands.

Based on preliminary data (year one), field treated with dairy manure and a sun hemp cover crop produced higher yields than conventional farmer practices (fertilizer only treatment). Fish Bone meal and sudex fields did not improve crop yields when compared with farmer practices.

Additional time is needed to see if other treatments increase the organic matter in soils and boost soil properties.

Kaneohe Extension Office Hours

Effective September, 2007, the Kaneohe Extension office will be open from 8 am to 12 pm on Tuesdays. The office will be closed for the rest of the week due to limited staff.

Advancing Fruit Crop Work on Oahu

More growers are expressing interest in growing fruit crops. With the assistance of fruit growers like Frankie's Nursery, Poamoho Produce, Laulani Farms, growers in Waihole valley and Dr. Ted Radovich at UH CTAHR, we are working to do more research and extension work with fruit crops.

We received Hawaii Farm Bureau Funds to evaluate the effect of the perennial peanut on soil quality and tree growth in Hawaii's orchards. Evaluations will begin to also look at different varieties of fruit crops for commercial and value added production.

In July 2007, we held a grafting workshop with the help of retired UH CTAHR Horticulturalist, Dr. Ken Takeda. Growers learned simple grafting techniques and applied the lessons to avocado seedlings. The workshop was a huge success.



2007 marks a century of instruction, research, and outreach at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). CTAHR, established in 1907 is the founding college of the University of Hawai'i, CTAHR will be celebrating its first 100 years as Hawai'i's land-grant institution through various outreach events. We hope you will participate in the many CTAHR Centennial events throughout the state.

Conference Proceedings

[Proceedings from the 38th Annual Conference Hawaii Banana Industry Association \(HBIA\) can be found at the website below:](http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/nelsons/HBIA2007/2007HBIAPROCEEDINGS.htm)

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2007 Waimanalo Field Day**Saturday, September 22, 2007: Waimanalo Experiment Station, 8:30 am to noon**

Corn, peppers, taro, papaya, plumeria, cacao, ginger, moringa, indigo, kava, biodiesel crops, and many more crops will be on display. Chef Alfredo of KCC will be there to prepare some excellent dishes with his Pacific cuisine class. Contact: Victoria Perry at 956-2164

Outreach Program for Minority Farmers of Hawaii**September 27, 2007, Waialua District Court in Haleiwa, Oahu, Thursday, 6:00 – 8:30 PM**

For more information, call Sabina Swift at 956-9208 or Keona Mark at 637-2778

17th Annual International Tropical Fruit Conference**Friday, September 28, 2007 - Sunday, September 30, 2007, 5:00 PM, 'Imiloa Astronomy Center, Big Island**

Learn about the latest advances in tropical fruit production in Australia, get research updates from agencies such as UH & USDA, and the latest updates in the area of import, export, and marketing. Contact: Jody Smith at 956-7774

HMSA Island Fresh Festival**Kakaako Gateway Park, Saturday, September 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The event will include food booths, CTAHR booths, cooking demonstrations, a farmers' market, family entertainment, and free health information.

Improving Spray Efficiency One Step at a Time**Workshop 1: Understanding of the Basic Factors Affecting Spray Output****Kamiya Farm, BYU Campus, Saturday, September 29, 2007, 3:00 pm**

With new regulations, it is important to apply crop protection chemicals correctly. Incorrect application of chemicals could result in over- or under-application of chemicals on crop. We will be working with Dr. Mike Kawate (CTAHR pesticide registration specialist), Charlie Nagamine (CTAHR educational specialist) & Mike Matsukawa (HDOA Pesticide Branch) to deliver a series of educational programs on spray technologies. Growers with a valid HDOA pesticide license will receive recertification credit hours. Please bring your pesticide license to receive credits and call the HFB office to [RSVP](tel:848-2074) at 848-2074.

Hawai'i Island Food Summit**Friday, October 5-6, 2007, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm, Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort, Molokai**

This two-day Summit will explore the visions, possibilities, ideas, and practical solutions to answering the question "How can Hawai'i Feed Itself?" Contact: Jody Smith at 956-7774

Hawaii Pacific Kava Festival**Saturday, October 6, 2007 - Sunday, October 7, 2007 noon- 8:00 pm****University of Hawaii, McCarthy Mall**

Celebration of kava ('awa) in modern Hawaii. Hawaiian music, hula, kava tasting, crafts, exhibits from noon to 8 pm on Saturday. On Sunday, Kava Science Symposium. Contact: Skip Bittenbender at 956 6043.

USDA ANNOUNCES SIGN-UP DATES FOR NEW CROP DISASTER PROGRAMS

Contact: Jason Shitanishi, USDA FSA 483-8600 x 104

The three ad hoc disaster programs provide benefits to farmers and ranchers who suffered losses caused by natural disasters in recent years. Eligible farmers can sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) beginning Oct. 15, 2007, if they suffered quantity losses to their crops. USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses as soon as possible. CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

More information about these programs are available in a fact sheet titled, Agricultural Assistance Act of 2007, found on FSA's Web site, <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on Disaster Assistance Programs.

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