



A circular logo with the word "Start" in a bold, sans-serif font above the word "FARMING" in a smaller, sans-serif font. An orange arrow points to the right, passing through the letter "F".

NEW FARMERS | WOMEN IN AG | YOUNG FARMERS | VETERANS | FARMS IN TRANSITION | **DISCOVERY TOOL**

New Farmers

Discover it here.

Agriculture is full of exciting and rewarding opportunities. Farming is a tough job, but at the heart of it all, you'll see a vibrant community contributing to the future of our nation's health and food security.

Find the resources you need to get started or personalize your search with our [Discovery Tool](#).

[New Farmer Website](#)

The US Department of Agriculture recently launched the "New Farmers" Website with tools targeted to support new farmers, women, youth, and veterans in agriculture. There are discussion forums and a customizable search tool to help new farmers build their capacity and networks to succeed in the business of farming. Check it out: <https://newfarmers.usda.gov/>

Stanford ONLINE Lagunita

COMMUNITY FEATURE

Stanford University Online is offering a free, 4-module self-paced course "[Introduction to the Natural Capitol Approach](#)," beginning January 12. The course is sponsored by the [Natural Capitol Project](#) (NatCap) and will introduce the NatCap's approach to using ecosystem service information to inform decisions.

PARTNERSHIPS IN AGRICULTURE



Monsanto has achieved the “Wildlife at Work” certification by the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) for its conservation efforts on Molokai – the first company in Hawaii to receive this national recognition.

A member of WHC since 1989, participation in WHC’s Conservation Certification program has enabled Monsanto’s Molokai farm to receive assistance from WHC in its efforts to improve the facility’s wildlife habitat. Partnership with WHC has also provided Monsanto with an opportunity to demonstrate their responsible corporate environmental stewardship by formulating and implementing a balanced and operative wildlife management program.

Amongst the many conservation practices currently in place at Monsanto’s Molokai farm are: planting vegetative cover on fallow lands to prevent soil loss, performing contour tillage to increase water infiltration, performing deep tillage to ensure farm lands remains healthy and productive, installing storm diversions to direct water away from fields, documenting wildlife species sighted on the farm, and planting permanent vegetation around perimeter of fields for windbreaks. This year alone, Monsanto employees planted nearly 1,850 native trees, shrubs and understory species to protect 478 acres of farmland, about one-third of the total 2,200 acres. The plantings include 11 different native or endangered plants including *koa*, *milo* and *ohai*. The site will also serve as an outdoor educational classroom for people to learn about native Hawaiian plants.

[Read the full story here.](#)



Job opportunity: The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation is seeking a

Government and Community Affairs Director. This position will manage and supervise Hawaii Farm Bureau's Government and Community Affairs initiative including representing HFBB on public policy issues relating to ordinances, legislation, and regulations. This position is also responsible for advocating, representing, and communicating the HFBB policy before state and federal agencies, legislative bodies and local governments. This position will facilitate other natural resource, environmental, and land use issues as assigned, and provide reports on meetings and activities to Farm Bureau state board, its members and other staff as appropriate. Strong Verbal and written communications and management skills are essential. Frequent travel is required. Learn more here: <http://hfbf.org/hfb-careers/>



HAWAII COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Amplify the Power of Giving

FUNDING NOTICE: The Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) and its partners – the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, the Weissman Family Foundation, The Hawaii Tourism Authority, and the Marisla Foundation – are pleased to announce the sixth year of the Community Restoration partnership (CRP). This funding opportunity provides support for on-the ground lower watershed and coastal restoration projects in Hawaii that involve community stewardship activities and focus on durable and sustainable positive impacts on coastal and near shore marine areas. CRP's goals are to support quality physical restoration projects. [Read more here.](#)

Oahu Cooperator Meetings in January:

South: Tuesday, 01/07/2016 at Paradise Park in Manoa

Windward: Thursday, 01/21/2014 at Key Project in Kahaluu

West: January 19, CPS: Tuesday, 01/19/2016 at the CPS Conference Room, upper Kunia HARC office.

Find out more information about the Districts at <http://www.oahuswcd.org/>

Thank you for your support of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District. This new publication will feature news and community updates include best practices, pest alerts, stories from cooperators and partners, funding opportunities and more. Submit a story by contacting Michelle Gorham Jones: Michelle@OahuSWCD.org

West Oahu SWCD Directors

Larry Jefts (Chair), Peter Gibson, Alan Gottlieb, Taylor Kellerman, & John McHugh.

The West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to building partnerships that strengthen agriculture in Hawaii and the industry's support of a vibrant island community, environment, and economy.



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