

April 2017: Locally Led Conservation, Why and how to Soil Test, Parade of Farms, next West Oahu SWCD meeting is April 25.

[View this email in your browser](#)



West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Working with Farmers to Conserve Hawaii's Soil and Water Resources since 1950.



Locally Led Conservation

A Workshop Facilitated by West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District

Local communities have a great amount of expertise and can provide critical guidance and support to resource managers. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) supports this concept through a process designed and implemented by the community. Locally-Led Conservation is based on the principle that local people make the best decisions for their own communities.

West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is facilitating a Locally-Led Conservation Working Group Meeting on Thursday April 6, 2017 from 9 – 11:30am at the Crop Production Services office in Kunia (address below). Please enter through the side door. The public is invited to join in this collaborative process to define key resource concerns and prioritize them.

“NRCS believes that the most powerful and proactive thing we can do is to work with communities who care about and are familiar with the land” notes Bernadette Luncsford, Oahu District Conservationist with NRCS – Pacific Island Area.

The Locally Led Working group provides a clearer picture of which critical natural resource concerns to address first, where they are on the landscape, and how they impact ecosystems. This can result in more effective, cost-efficient conservation on

the ground - motivated by communities that understand the land and what it needs from them. Meeting results will be shared with NRCS and can help guide funding priorities.

Please RSVP to Michelle@OahuSWCD.org

Meeting Details:

Locally Led Conservation Working Group Meeting

Crop Production Services/Upper HARC Kunia 92-1770 Kunia Rd Kunia, HI 96759

Thursday, April 6, 2017 – 9:00am – 11:30am



Testing Your Soil: Why and How

Why have your soil tested?

Applying the wrong kinds of fertilizer can harm your crops and be a costly waste of money. It can also affect our coastal waters and drinking water by washing into streams or leaching into groundwater. Also, failing to correct soil problems or apply enough of the right types of fertilizer to your crops can result in poor yields and wasted effort.

Have your soil tested:

- To find out if there are unseen problems
- To find out if you should add fertilizer
- To find out what kind of fertilizer you should use
- To find out how much fertilizer you should apply

Basic Soil Analysis provides information about the pH of the soil, which tells you how acidic or alkaline your soil is, and about the available nutrient levels in the soil.

Specialized Soil Analysis can provide information on soil salinity, Nitrogen levels, organic Carbon levels, and micronutrient levels. You can also request testing for Aluminum levels or the presence of heavy metal contamination. Finally, you can test the particle size distribution which indicates the proportion of sand, silt and clay

particles in your soil.

<https://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/UHMG/Oahu/index.asp>

<https://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/UHMG/EastHI/soil-test.asp>



Parade of Farms 2017

The second-annual Parade of Farms aims to connect local Hawai'i communities with local agriculture will take place on May 6, 2017 at the Waialua Sugar Mill. This year, Parade of Farms will showcase local farms and agribusinesses on the North Shore of O'ahu.

This one-day event will feature behind-the-scenes tours of local farms and agribusinesses, an open house with community groups, the Waialua farmer's market, and more. The aim is to "cultivate community" by connecting residents and visitors with our local agriculture. The community event is free and open to the public from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The farmer's market will be open until 12:30 p.m.

Learn more about the community farm tours below:

[Tour #1: Agri+CULTURE \(9AM-12PM\)](#)

[Tour #2: Farm Exploration \(9:45AM-12:15PM\)](#)

[Tour #3: North Shore Specials \(1PM-3:45PM\)](#)

[Tour #4: Bean-to-Bar \(12:30PM-3PM\)](#)

Visit the event Website: <https://parade-of-farms.org/schedule/>



The Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawai'i (ALFH) will host the Hawai'i Agriculture Conference, AG2017, on August 29-30, 2017 at the Hawai'i Convention Center. The Hawai'i AG2017 Organizing Committee is soliciting proposals for oral presentations, poster presentations, symposiums, forums, and workshops.

The ALFH has been hosting this premiere all-agriculture conference since 2002. AG2017 will bring together stakeholders to unite in focus and support of Hawai'i's agriculture interests; to advance significant sector initiatives; and to build capacity, knowledge and collaboration across the sector. Proposals are being accepted under the following three tracks:

- 1) Hawai'i's \$300 Million Ag Opportunity
- 2) Local Farms, Families and Communities
- 3) Sustaining the 'Āina for Future Generations

Review the Call for Proposals and submit your proposal through our simple online system at <http://hiagconference.org>. The deadline for submitting a proposal has been extended to April 17, 2017. Applicants will be notified via email if their submission has been accepted for presentation at the conference. Please direct any questions about submissions to agconference@agleaderhi.org.

Calendar of Events

Aggie Events and Deadlines: Get active and involved by learning and sharing at these events!

- April 3, Waianae HFUU - The Wai'anae Chapter of the Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) meets the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m at Kahumana Organic Farms
- April 4, East Oahu, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation Meeting -
- April 6 from 9 - 11:30. Locally Led Conservation [meeting](#). Help set local funding priorities for NRCS. Crop Production Services Conference Room, Kunia Village 92-1770 Kunia Road, Kunia HI 96759.

- April 11, South Oahu, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation Meeting - HARC Lower Kunia Research Station: 94-340 Kunia Road. Contact Jayme as meeting date may change jaymebee@gmail.com
- April 11, West Oahu, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation Meeting - Jeanne Vana (President)-bigwavetomatoes@gmail.com
- April 17, Final day to submit proposals for the 2017 Ag Conference. Submit your proposal [today](#) to participate in Hawaii's premier ag conference.
- April 25, West Oahu SWCD Monthly Meeting. Crop Production Services Conference Room, Kunia Village 92-1770 Kunia Road, Kunia HI 96759.
- May 6, 2017, 2017 from 9 - 4. [Parade of Farms](#) at the Waiialua Sugar Mill.



Online Workshops with NRCS:

- April 26, 2017 8am Hawaii time High Tunnel Systems. Participants will learn about techniques used in high tunnel cropping systems to address issues with salinity, nutrient management, and pest management. [Click Here](#)
- April 27, 2017 8am Hawaii time. Neonicotinoid Insecticides: Efficacy, Non-target Effects, and Best Management Practices. [Click Here](#)
- Webinars provide us with the opportunity for continuing education credits as well as professional and personal development. To learn about more webinars, check out this [infographic](#).

Next West Oahu SWCD Meeting: April 25, 2017 at 12:30

Location: Crop Production Services Conference Room, Kunia Village 92-1770 Kunia Road, Kunia HI 96759. Please enter through the side door.

West Oahu SWCD Directors: Larry Jefts (Chair), Peter Gibson, Alan Gottlieb, John McHugh, & Joe Para. Associate Director: Mike Glidden.

Copyright © 2017 West Oahu Soil & Water Conservation District, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

Subscribe to E-News

About Us: The West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to building partnerships that strengthen agriculture in Hawaii and contribute to a vibrant island community, environment, and economy.

Newsletter compiled by Michelle Gorham, West Oahu SWCD and edited by Cindy Pinick with HARC.
Submit articles and information to Michelle@OahuSWCD.org

Donate Today. Support Sustainable Farming.

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

West Oahu Soil & Water Conservation District · P. O. Box 172 · 92-1770 Kunia Rd. · Kunia, HI 96759 · USA

MailChimp