



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Damage from wildfires and high winds on Hawaii ag producers estimated at \$23.1 million

HONOLULU, HI – January 26, 2024 – The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service estimates that Hawaii producers incurred \$23.1 million in economic loss and damages from the [wildfires and high winds](#) experienced in early August 2023. These losses account for the reduction of agricultural sales due to damages to markets or reduced customers, reduced agritourism income between August and December 2023, and livestock deaths, destroyed or damaged crop, and property damage.

Data were collected from a sample of 728 producers located in an area of Hawaii County that experienced wildfires and wind damage and those operating in Maui County (islands of Maui, Lanai, and Molokai). Questionnaires were mailed in early November 2023. Phone follow-up was conducted in December 2023 and early January 2024.

Hawaii County producers incurred \$100,000 in total losses while Maui County producers incurred \$23.0 million in total losses. Producers estimated the reduction in sales revenue at \$5.1 million, the reduction in agritourism revenue at \$3.9 million, the value of livestock losses at \$75,000, the value of crop damages at \$5.4 million, and property damages at \$8.5 million.

Damages to pasture

Producers reported 7,850 acres of pasture were damaged by the wildfires or high winds. Acres by county is withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Livestock

Deaths:

A few producers reported losses of cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, honeybee colonies, horses, and alpacas. The combined value of these losses was \$75,000. Losses by species and county are withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Culling:

In addition to livestock deaths, some livestock producers reported they would need to cull additional animals however there were not enough reports to provide an estimate.

Crops

Producers reported 500 acres of cropland were damaged by the wildfires or high winds. Acres by county is withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. Hawaii County producers reported damages to floriculture and vegetable crops. Maui County producers reported damage to bananas, coffee, floriculture crops, taro, vegetables, and other fruit crops.

Producers reported the \$5.4 million in total crop losses due to damaged crops and crop sales not realized due to facility damages. Losses by crop and county are withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Property Damages

Producers estimated \$8.5 million in total property damage. This includes damages to buildings, vehicles, irrigation equipment, farm machinery, fences, and other structures such as water tanks. Losses by property type and county are withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Workers

Producers reported 960 hired workers on 165 operations on August 1. Overall, 87% of producers reported no changes in the number of workers. In Hawaii County the percentage was 91% and in Maui County the percentage was 86%. However, 10% of Maui producers didn't know if they would change their number of workers.

Recovery time

Overall, 73% of producers indicated their production didn't change. In Hawaii County the percentage was 91% and in Maui County the percentage was 70%. However, 4% of Maui producers don't expect to recover.

Table 1. Reduced income and damage estimates

Source of loss	Hawaii County	Maui County	Total
Reduces sales revenue	(D)	(D)	\$5,115,000
Reduced agritourism	(D)	(D)	\$3,910,000
Livestock deaths	(D)	(D)	\$ 75,000
Crop production damages	(D)	(D)	\$5,435,000
Property damages	(D)	(D)	\$8,520,000
Total	\$100,000	\$22,955,000	\$23,055,000

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Table 2. Changes in paid workers.

Change in workers	Hawaii County	Maui County	Total
Increase by 5 or more workers.	0%	1%	1%
Increase between 1 and 4 workers.	2%	2%	2%
No change	91%	86%	87%
Decrease between 1 and 4 workers.	0%	1%	1%
Decrease by 5 or more workers.	0%	1/	1/
Don't know	7%	10%	9%
Total	100%	100%	100%

1/ Less than 0.5%

Table 3. Estimated time for production to recover.

Length of time	Hawaii County	Maui County	Total
Production did not change	91%	70%	73%
Returned to previous levels	3%	3%	3%
1-6 months	2%	8%	7%
7-12 months	1%	7%	6%
13-24 months	0%	5%	4%
More than 24 months	3%	3%	3%
Don't expect to recover	0%	4%	4%
Total	100%	100%	100%

For more information, call the NASS Hawaii Field Office at (808) 522-8080.

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