



## AMENDED CENTRIC REPORT - DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

**Who We Are:** The Division of Agriculture is mandated under Public Law 10-57 section 2653 (j), through the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to promote, develop, and administer agricultural programs including but not limited to, plant industry, agricultural extension services, and animal industry and health.

The Division of Agriculture (DOA) has five functional sections or branches which operate under the auspices and direction of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources headed by the Secretary of DLNR. The Division's Director of Agriculture is responsible in managing and overseeing the functions of the five sections. Public Law 10-57 establishes the respective functions and responsibilities of the five branches of DOA. Federal statutes govern those program paid for by federal funding such as the Forestry section of DOA.

- **ANIMAL HEALTH:**

To act as the housing of all imported animals under *public law 4-55, section 5321 sub section A thru D* as established was defined as a system of animal quarantine, inspection procedure and disease control activities to provide for the sound protection of domestic animals, poultry and birds as well as pet animals.

- **QUARANTINE OFFICE:**

To protect the agricultural and general well-being of the people of the Northern Marianas by preventing the introduction of and further spread of exotic animals, animal diseases, and other pests into and within the Northern Marianas.

- **FORESTRY:**

Forestry is to promote best management practice while sustaining a healthy, diversity and productivity on our limited and fragile

forest and grassland resources and ecosystem for present and future generations. Such objectives will be carried through conservation, protection and the enhancement practices, while keeping the islands present landscape provisions. This office is also federally funded through the USDA Forest Service.

- **PLANT INDUSTRY SECTION:**

The Plant Industry Section continue to serve as the distribution center for seedlings, cuttings and other plant propagative materials sold or donated to farmers as well as the general public. Variety testing of different seedlings of vegetables, fruit trees and other plants are being conducted and passed on to interested farmers.

DOA also administers the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program from USDA Agricultural Marketing Services, which enhances the competitiveness of specialty crops, which are defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops, including floriculture.

Furthermore, DOA manages the Kagman Farm Plot Program consisting of forty-eight farm plots. Each farm plot having an area of 10,000 square meters is available for interested individuals to learn how to plant, harvest and consume or sell their crops and vegetables.

#### HOW ARE WE DOING?

- Applied and was awarded over \$500,000 of federal funds under Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)
- Assisted over 5000 students learn about specialty crops
- Implemented this year's Saipan Agricultural Fair
- Erected two high tunnels
- Provided farm plots to NMC CREES and Committee on Local Medicine
- Secured 20 1,000-gallon water tanks for the farm plots in case of water outages
- Published ITP to purchase two tractors with implements to help farmers
- Quarantine inspectors confiscated and/or intercepted prohibited over 15,656 pounds of contrabands at CNMI seaport and airport
- Quarantine inspectors incinerated a total of 306,274 foreign garbage
- Assisted in cleanup following Super Typhoon Yutu
- Germinated 436 different special crops, some of which were donated for public and private purposes
- Participated in numerous community events
- Visited farmers and rangers to advise them of precautionary measures regarding the highly contagious and deadly African Swine fever disease
- Provided FEMA information on DoA damages resulting from Typhoon Yutu
- Quarantine inspectors inspected 3,209 international, commuter and private flights and 142 surface vessels.
- Quarantine inspectors cleared/inspected 4,356 shipping containers
- Quarantine inspectors cleared 387,280 air/sea passengers and 25,394 air/sea crews
- Distributed 701 plants to schools, government agencies, and community organizations
- Planted 1,415 trees at parks, beaches and other public areas
- Presentations on forestry program at various schools benefiting 500 students and 25 teachers



Backyard farming under the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program



Locally grown crops and vegetables at the Garapan Public Market

## WHAT ARE THE REVENUES & EXPENSES

Division's local budget: \$1,106,828

- Personnel: \$ 1,028,069.00
- Fuel: \$6,408.00
- Communication: \$5,172.00
- Office Supplies: \$1,207.00
- Operation Supplies: \$9,804.00

Federal Grant:

- USDA Special Crop Block Grant Program: \$242,480.00
- USDA Forest Service Program: \$164,000.00

Equipment Services

- \$1,766.00

Collection from Permit:

- \$3,220.00

Collection from Fees: \$8,218.00

As indicated above, the bulk of the local budget is for salaries for the 41 employees working at DOA. There are also two trainees working at the Division but are getting paid under the Community Worker Incentive Program. In addition, DLNR has contracted a Licensed Veterinarian who is also the CNMI State Veterinarian to manage and operate the Animal Clinic under DOA.



One of the major entry in the animal division during the annual Saipan Agricultural Fair Association

Using funds from the SCBGP, the Division will also be contracting a SCBGP Coordinator for the islands of Tinian and Rota to help run the funded projects on these islands.

The funds under both forestry and SCBGP were awarded for three years beginning FY17 and FY19. The bulk of these funds are for projects, while some will be used for administrative and personnel salaries.



One of the high tunnels erected at the Kagman Farm Plot right before Super Typhoon Yutu devastated the CNMI October 2018



The Farm Turn Out (FTO) at the Kagman Agriculture Station, part of an elaborate water irrigation system designed to provide water to forty-eight government owned farm plots

### **What's Next?**

DOA will be perusing new and existing activities in the coming year including the following:

- There are forty-eight existing farm plots being managed by DOA. Of this, less than 10 are actively being farmed. We'll encourage and provide interested farmers to farm the rest within three years.
- With funding from SCBGP, projects to be implemented include community farming within the different villages; students farming utilizing the Kagman Agriculture Station for students to learn about farming; backyard farming for individuals to have their own vegetable gardens in their backyards; and adopt a farm plot for the forty-eight farm plots in Kagman to interested farmers to plant, harvest and market their specialty crops.
- The result of these activities will definitely help the Garapan Public Market to have more produce and vegetables to buy from farmers and sell to the local residents and visitors alike.
- HB No. 21-55, if passed into law, would allow the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture to regulate hemp in the Northern Mariana Islands. DLNR DOA is honored to be considered to develop the regulations governing this new industry for the CNMI.
- To erect remaining high tunnels on the islands of Tinian and Rota to allow the continuity of growing specialty crops, among other advantages.
- High tunnels will allow plants and crops to grow even during rainy seasons, including protecting them from the

harsh reality of the sun especially during the summer.

- A legislation which will correct the name Plant and Animal Industry to Division of Agriculture is being developed to be introduced in the House, hopefully before the end of the year. In addition to the name, the legislation will also allow DOA to manage the farm plot program and allow the people to utilize these areas for farming.
- Will soon begin the planning of the annual Saipan Agricultural Fair, a very successful event featuring the hard working farmers and rangers and their plants and animals.
- The African Swine fever disease is killing millions of pigs in Asian countries, several thousands of miles away from the CNMI. Our Quarantine Inspectors will continue to inspect passengers, baggage and cargoes from infected areas to prevent this highly contagious and deadly disease from entering our islands. Our inspectors will also continue visiting farmers and rangers to spread the word about this deadly disease.
- To explore the possibility of performing insemination activity for purposes of obtaining high quality breeds of cattle production
- With funding assistance from FEMA, DoA will have a new office building, new nursery for both trees and plants, animal health clinic, and warehouse.

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