



2025 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, forestry, and animal health industry.

The Division of Agriculture (DOA) has four functional sections or branches that 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 for managing and overseeing the functions of these sections.

- **ANIMAL HEALTH:**

To act as the housing of all imported animals under public law 4-55, section 5321, subsections A through 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 livestock animals.

- **FORESTRY:**

Forestry is about promoting best management practices while sustaining a healthy, diverse, and productive ecosystem on our limited and fragile forest and grassland resources for present and future generations. Such objectives will be carried through conservation, protection, and enhancement practices, while keeping the island's landscape provision. This program is also federally funded by the USDA Forest Service.

- **HEMP PROGRAM:**

Local PL 21-25, which was signed into law on July 20, 2020, designates DOA to regulate hemp in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Although regulation is still being developed, any producer can apply to operate a hemp industry with the federal government.

- **PLANT INDUSTRY SECTION** The Plant Industry Section continues 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.



Mayor Aubry Hocog took time out from her busy schedule to help plant trees along the road to the Rota Airport

DOA also administers the **Specialty Crop Block Grant Program**, funded by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, which enhances the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops, including floriculture. Other programs from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service include the Micro Grants for Food Security Program and the H.R. 133 Stimulus funding, which encourages states to prioritize projects addressing the impacts of COVID-19.

DOA is also a recipient of funds under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), now known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), to rehabilitate the nursery facilities on Saipan and Rota, which Super Typhoon Yutu damaged. In addition to the construction costs, funds were also used to purchase a pickup truck for the nursery program in Rota.

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

In line with its Zero Waste Initiative Program, the DOA is working with the Office of Planning and Development and the Department of Public Works to establish an Organic Processing Facility at its compound in Kagman. The program will eventually produce much-needed materials for fertilizers, benefiting farmers and others who require these materials. The establishment of such a facility will help reduce or slow down the use of the Marpi Landfill.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

- DOA applied and was awarded under the FY24 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program the amount of \$244,562.69. The SCBGP funding supports farmers growing specialty crops, including fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, and nursery crops.
- DOA applied and was awarded \$139,701.24 under FY24 Mini-Grant for Food Security Program (MGFSP). The program has been soliciting applications from eligible individuals and organizations to increase the quantity of locally grown food through small-scale farming, herding, and livestock operations in communities with significant levels of food insecurity. Awards will be distributed in December.
- DOA applied and received \$237,100.00 under the FY25 MGFSP. Applications will be solicited in March of next year.
- The \$2,038,278.00, awarded to the CNMI last fiscal year, will benefit seven of the twenty applicants who completed their project proposals under this program. The program is designed to assist mid-sized food chain establishments that supply farm produce to the market.
- Forestry nursery propagated around 1,165 trees on Saipan, 2,788 on Rota, and 808 on Tinian.

- They also produced and distributed 1,227 seedlings on Saipan, 1,694 on Rota, and 90 on Tinian.

Furthermore, they collected 12.25 lbs on Saipan, 13.25 lbs on Rota and 8 lbs on Tinian.



On June 21, 2025, a pest discovered at the Division of Agriculture, Kagman, Saipan, was positively identified as the mango fruit borer (*Cirripestis eutrapphera*). Dr. Michael Melzer confirmed this identification at the University of Hawaii after analyzing the collected samples.



Proclamation signing for Arbor Day

- DOA applied and was awarded \$244,149.83 under the FY25 SCBGP. Since the solicitation of project proposals for the FY24 award is still in progress, the solicitation for the FY25 award will be made in March of next year.
- The renovation of the nursery facility on Saipan is about to be completed soon, which would include two nursery facilities and one working station. A total of \$75,000.00 was awarded to DOA for the construction of the forestry nursery facilities. The exact amount was also awarded to renovate the nursery facility on Rota and to purchase a vehicle and other equipment to operate their program.



The new forestry nursery facility will soon be completed to begin serving the island

- Funds under FY24 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for the Forest Health program to address the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, *Macuna puriens*, the little red fire ants, and other new existing invasive vines and plants.

- 12,450 customers visited the Garapan Farmers Market, which made \$137,708.36 in sales from 33 farmers, including one from Rota.
- Seventy-four projects were awarded funds under the FY23 solicitation for funding assistance under the Micro Grant for Food Security program. Checks have been distributed to the successful recipients to either plant vegetables and crops, or raise ducks, pigs, goats, and cows, and other animals.
- 68 tractor services were performed for farmers, which included 29 mowers, 3 plows, 28 rotovators, 1 auger, 4 bedding, and 3 land clearing.

REVENUES & EXPENSES

Division's local budget: \$575,758.00

- Personnel: \$570,057.00
- Operation: \$5,701.00

Federal Grant:

- USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program: \$244,149.83
- USDA Micro Grant for Food Security Program: \$139,701.24
- USDA Forest Health Program: \$85,000.00
BIL Forest Health: \$46,000.00
- USDA Urban & Community Forest Program: \$64,205.00.00
- USDA Forest Stewardship Program: \$100,000.00
- BIL UCF/FSP: \$75,000.00 Sent Lynda request



Feegan, a Blue Healer breed dog from Guam, recently arrived at his new home on Saipan on October 10, 2025



(L-R) DLNR Secretary Sylvan Igisomar, Honorable Governor David Apatang, and Honorable Lt. Governor Dennis Mendiola



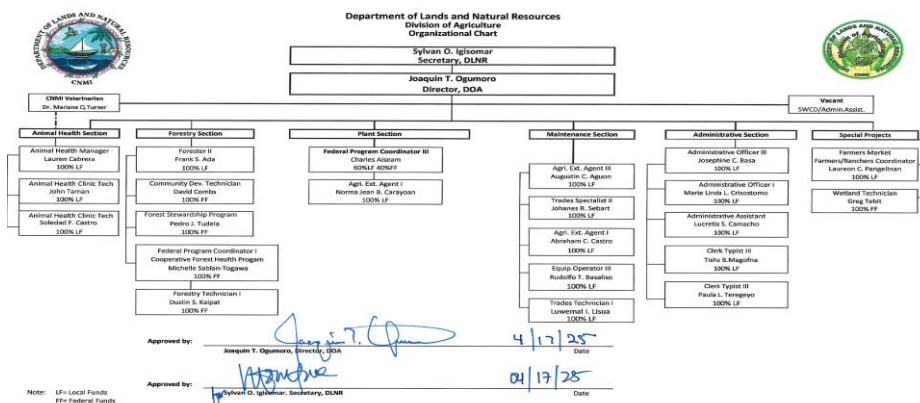
(L-R) Journie Hofschneider, a cattle rancher from Tinian, Lauren Cabrera, Animal Health Manager, and Ruby Ma, Saipan Humane Society Clinic Director, during a ParaVet Training involving

participants from Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, which was held on Saipan and conducted by SPC and the Australian Government from July 7 – 11, 2025. The five trainers and their organizations donated over \$10,000 worth of medical supplies for the CNMI, paid their way, and conducted the training for free.

WHAT'S NEXT?

DOA will be performing the following activities in the coming fiscal year:

1. Distribute awarded funds to successful applicants under the FY24 Micro Grant Program
2. Solicit project proposals under the FY25 Micro Grant Program
3. Implement Crop Rotation for the Kagman farm plot farmers
4. Distribute awards under our Resiliency Food Security Infrastructure Program
5. Establish the first-ever certified Organic Processing Facility on Saipan
6. Complete updating the farm plot permits to incorporate agroforestry farming techniques
7. Raffle out farm plots for interested farmers as part of our agricultural education and access.
8. Participate in the Forest Inventory and Analysis
9. Utilize solar energy to provide power to the five water wells being used for the irrigation system for the farm plots
10. Distribute available farm plots
11. Complete the construction of the new animal health clinic in As Lito.



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