Aloun Farms Joins the List of HAW-FLYPM Cooperators  
Oahu, Hawaii

Aloun Farms’ mission is to provide island customers with the highest quality, fresh, locally grown produce by replacing imports and providing employees with an enjoyable and safe working environment. As a result, Aloun Farms has teamed up with the HAW-FLYPM program in a cooperative effort to suppress fruit fly populations in the Central Oahu plains.

Currently, HAW-FLYPM is setting up a demonstration location for field sanitation and GF-120 protein bait treatment. As the time moves into melon season, a new field site at Kapolei is going to be the main station for the field demonstration activities. Block monitoring traps are already in place to monitor melon fly population movement from different directions of the field. In addition, a wide range of melon fly roosting hosts includes wild tomato, castor bean, and Christmas berry was found around the 200 acres field site. These roosting hosts will be the target areas for GF120 protein bait treatment. This demonstration site at Kapolei will assist HAW-FLYPM in encouraging other growers on Oahu to adopt area wide fruit fly suppression technologies.

To keep workers and field managers informed about fruit fly suppression advances and on-farm safety issues, HAW-FLYPM conducted a hands-on workshop on March 12, 2002 at Aloun Farms. Topics of the workshop included the fruit fly biology and identification, fruit fly monitoring program, and safety issues of handling monitoring traps. Great feedback and discussions during the workshop showed the participants are enthusiastic to adopt the program and technologies in practice. In the following months, series of workshops and field demonstrations will be held to bring the growers up to date on the progress of the program and the latest fruit fly population changes from the field.

Word Spreads on Persimmon Growers’ Success  
Kula, Maui

Early this year, persimmon growers involved in the Med Fly Mass Trapping program gathered at the Kula Community Center to share with HAW-FLYPM program investigators and staff their opinions about the recent mass trapping program in Upper Kula. These growers collectively expressed their extreme satisfaction with the outcomes of this program.

While persimmon season is now over, HAW-FLYPM continues its partnership with this close knit group of growers and are investigating the effectiveness of GF-120 protein bait spray for on-farm Medfly suppression in persimmon bridge crops, i.e. loquat, citrus, etc. It is our intention to keep the Medfly at low levels throughout the year.

Good news travels quickly. Without much effort, HAW-FLYPM identified approximately 35 new cooperators. On March 20, 2002, HAW-FLYPM held a growers’ meeting to brief interested growers about the program and obtain better insight about their current fruit fly suppression strategies. HAW-FLYPM looks forward to working with this new group of cooperators. Welcome to the team!