



PACIFIC ISLANDS AREA

# PROFILES IN soil health



## Nolan Nobriga (left)

with NRCS engineer Drew Stout (right)  
Hilo, Hawaii

Operation: ranching  
Practice: lined pond

## Local Rancher Benefits from Soil Health

Nobriga Ranch is trying to raise food for the world. Nolan Nobriga set his mind to build the ranch, raise more cattle, support the industry, and feed more people. He's learning that these goals are attainable when he starts with soil health at the core.

### Making the Change

Traditional ranching is fine, but for Nolan, Nobriga Ranch could not have been as successful without the technical and financial assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Nolan says, "This is the best way for anyone who raises food."

*"Our soil health is awesome now. We have better grass for the cattle to graze on."*

*- Nolan Nobriga, Hawaii Rancher*

### The Practices

Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Nobriga Ranch recently constructed a lined pond to collect rain water on their property. As a result, their cattle will have enough water to be healthy and more effectively managed. Nolan is very pleased with the engineering expertise and the conservation planning that he received from NRCS.



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## Healthy Results

Prior to the lined pond, Nobriga Ranch did not have enough water for their livestock. Nolan is very appreciative of the engineering design that was done. He already sees the difference with having enough water for the grass and cattle. Nolan also notices the difference when using prescribed grazing because the grass is healthier when they let it rest during rotation. He observes his cows eating a variety of healthy grasses with better nutrients from the ground. Nolan says, "Healthy soil leads to healthy grass, that feeds healthy cattle."



*Installation of a brand new lined pond at Nobriga Ranch.*

## Raising Awareness

Nolan and his family have been NRCS cooperators for many years. As a result of the great partnership, he alerts his friends and neighbors about the programs and services available from NRCS. Nolan says, "Soil health will help you raise just about anything, it's an awesome deal all the way around."

## Contact

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