



FEBRUARY 2023

- Spring Classes and Training •
- High School Scholarships Open •
- Farmer Advocacy to Elected Officials •

Dig into the details below!



Thanks to everyone who attended the Compost Equipment Demo at the Carlsbad Flower Fields! Stay tuned on our [YouTube page](#) for the equipment video.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 26th through Friday, March 3rd

35th Annual CA Small Farm Conference - Hybrid

50+ online workshops, videos, and interactive forums, and a local in person in Vista. Admission is on a sliding scale. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Wednesday, March 1st | 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Voluntary Conservation and Land Management Assistance Workshop

[Learn More and Register Here.](#)

Thursday, March 2nd | 11:00am- 12:00pm

San Diego Farm Bureau Meeting, [420 S Broadway in Escondido](#)

San Diego Agricultural Planning Program Update

[Check our website for dates](#) to attend additional public events and elected officials meetings.

Thursday, March 2nd | 1:00pm - 5:00pm - Wild Acres Farm in Vista

San Diego Farmers Guild

[Register here](#) or RSVP directly to Elizabeth: evaughan@caff.org

THE SAN DIEGO FARMERS GUILD

A gathering for farmers and aspiring farmers to socialize and talk farming!

This event also serves as the regional gathering for those attending the Small Farms Conference Feb 26th - March 2nd.

**Thursday, March 2nd
1-5pm**

Farm Tour, Snacks, and BCS Demo - dress accordingly!

**Wild Acres Farm
Vista, CA
1-5pm**

Please RSVP:
<https://bit.ly/3XY3hBG>
or email evaughan@caff.org

Wednesday, March 22nd | 4:30pm - Carlsbad Flower Fields

Young Farmer and Rancher Social

Contact Jess Williams to RSVP and get event details: YFR@sdfarmbureau.org.

Starting March 22, 2023 - June 2023 | Beginning Farmer & Rancher Series CA

[Click here for the Microsoft Teams link.](#) For more info email Victor

Hernandez: Victor.Hernandez@USDA.GOV

Apprenticeship and Farm Incubation Program

Hosted by [Foodshed](#) and [Solidarity Farm](#)

- For Farm Incubation Program - Nan Cavazos, 760-689-0169
- For Apprenticeship Program - Jose Alcaraz, 619-495-2360, josefoodshed@gmail.com

Have kids interested in farming? Solidarity Farm in Pauma Valley is hosting their Farm School again this Spring. [See here to sign up.](#)

WILD WILLOW FARM CLASSES

Monday, March 13th - 9:00am | Intro to Cool Season Crops

Monday, March 20th - 9:00am | Intro to Efficient Irrigation Systems

...and many more! [Check out the full lineup and register here.](#)

GRANT FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Quarter Acre Incubator Plots Available

Plots available for new farmers at the Tijuana River Valley Community Garden.

- Rent is \$1200 for the first year and \$1400 for the second and third years.
- Water is billed separately.
- Business plan required to apply.
- Farmers can use the gazebo as a farm stand.
- To learn more [visit our website](#) or contact Joel Kramer: joel.kramer@rcdsandiego.org.

Jim Thompson Conservation Scholarship Fund

[Learn more about eligibility and apply here.](#)



**2023 JIM THOMPSON
CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIP**

Apply by
April 24th!

Are you interested in conservation, agriculture, environmental science, natural resources, or biology? The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County is offering scholarships for up to seven students!

Apply now for a chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship!

To be eligible, applicants must:

1. Be residents within the RCD of Greater San Diego County's sphere of influence (see map in application).
2. Have successfully completed three years of study at an accredited high school.
3. Be nearing completion of their fourth year in high school while maintaining a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better (on a 4.0 scale).
4. Expect or have received a "notice of intent", to enroll in undergraduate college courses related to resource conservation or agriculture.


RCDGSDC

[Visit \[rcdsandiego.org/supporting-high-school-conservationists-to-apply!\]\(http://rcdsandiego.org/supporting-high-school-conservationists-to-apply!\)](http://rcdsandiego.org/supporting-high-school-conservationists-to-apply!)

[Zero Foodprint's](#) Compost Connector

Subsidized compost for working farms.

- Priority for farms using larger amounts of compost.
- Subsidy for material and delivery costs.
- Applications accepted on a rolling basis.
- For additional information, head to their [website](#).

Organic Farmers and Farmers in Transition

Receive support from CCOF to help cover costs of organic certification and receive educational resources to ease the transition. [See more information here.](#)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Agricultural producers can apply for financial and technical support from the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement conservation practices.

CARBON FARMING SUPPORT

We are here to help you! From direct assistance to technical advice, here are some of the services that the RCD offers to San Diego farmers and ranchers, free of charge:

- **Soil Sampling** for organic carbon content
- **Free Irrigation Evaluations** - [Check this map](#) to see if you are located in Greater San Diego or Upper San Luis Rey jurisdictions. If so, [sign up here](#).
- **Technical Guidance** for implementing conservation practices
- **Economic Relief** application assistance for drought, flooding and COVID-19 - contact Elizabeth Garcia, elizabeth.garcia@rcdsandiego.org
- **Request a Carbon Farming Plan** [here](#)
- **Plant Selection** for native hedgerows and habitat buffers
- **Free Chipping** for at risk homeowners within the San Diego River and Consortium Watersheds - [Visit Fire Safe Council](#)

Contact Us!

ag@rcdsandiego.org | 619-562-0096

To subscribe to this newsletter, [click here](#).

Keep up with us on social media with links below!

