

Contact Us!

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The RCD is committed to supporting San Diego's ever-growing community of Farmers and Ranchers. We equip hard-working stewards of the land with conservation practices known as regenerative agriculture which help to improve farm and ranch productivity. This holistic approach to managing working lands strengthens agricultural businesses

El Distrito de Conservación de Recursos (RCD) está comprometido a apoyar la creciente comunidad de agricultores y rancheros en el condado de San Diego. Proveyendo prácticas de conservación a nuestros agricultores, conocidas como "Agricultura Regenerativa," estas practicas aumentan la productividad de granjas y ranchos. Además, esta manera de cultiva-

reducing the risk of wildfire and adapting to the effects of climate change.

agricolas, conserva los recursos naturales, reduce el riesgo de incendios y adapta las granjas a los efectos de cambio climático.

Para recibir estas noticias de subsidio, eventos e investigaciones de agricultura regenerativa puede contactarnos en español, solo tiene que responder a este mensaje o escribirnos a ag@rcdsandiego.org.

Irrigation Support from the RCD

We are excited to announce that we are hiring an Irrigation Technician to provide water management support for commercial farmers and ranchers! Mission RCD and UC Cooperative Extension have provided this essential service to portions of the County and nursery growers for years. We are grateful to NRCS for taking the time to train our team in irrigation evaluation methods last December.

Thanks to funding from the California Department of Food and Agriculture, we are excited to offer irrigation evaluations at your commercial operation starting this fall. In addition, we can reimburse the cost of a pump efficiency test for producers who cultivate 50 acres or less, or those who belong to a minority ethnic group. We will also be offering semi-annual trainings on water and nutrient management in partnership with UC Cooperative Extension.

If you are interested in receiving an irrigation evaluation or pump efficiency test, you can sign up at this link. These resources will be offered to all regions except North West San Diego. Plug your address [into this map](#) to see if you are located in our jurisdiction or the Upper San Luis Rey Conservation District.

If you are located in the Mission district, you can receive similar support from them [here](#).

Every drop of water saved is money saved, as well as more stability for managing your farm during extreme weather. We are here to help you improve your operation!



Upcoming Events

Free Vermiculture Class

Wednesday, May 4th | 5:00pm - 6:30pm | Webinar

Learn how to recycle your food waste into a valuable resource for your garden. Please sign up for our Vermicomposting Workshop taught by UC Master Gardener AND UC Master Composter, Bridget Matz. [Register here.](#)

Health and Safety on the Farm and Ranch: Personal Protective Equipment

Safety

Thursday, May 12th | Webinar

English - 9:00am - 9:45am

Spanish - 10:00am - 10:45am

The purpose of a PPE Program is to help employees understand the types of PPE, learn the basics of conducting a hazard assessment, select the appropriate PPE for a variety of circumstances and to understand what kind of training is needed in the proper use and care of PPE.

[Register here.](#)

Successful Models of Healthy Peri-Urban Farms and the Foundation Required to Sustain Them

Wednesday, May 18th | 3:00pm - 4:00pm | Webinar

Learn from Dr. Craig Kolodge of San Pascual Valley Soils as he explores the health of peri-urban agriculture in San Diego County and what it will take to sustain its future. [Register here.](#)

UCCE Science for Citrus Health: Citrus Mealybug Management

Thursday, May 19th | 11:00am - 12:30pm | Webinar

Dr. Diepenbrock will discuss the investigated strategies for management of the hibiscus (Lebeck) mealybug, *Nipaecoccus viridis*. Including monitoring and scouting methods, potential conservation and augmentation biological control, targeted insecticide use, and possible need for sanitation protocols. [Register here.](#)

Land as Your Legacy Succession Planning

Tuesday, May 24th | 9:00am - 10:00am | Webinar

Learn how to help better meet the future needs of your family and your business with a no-cost Land As Your Legacy transition plan from Nationwide. They will cover the benefits of having a transition plan, and individual meetings with a Certified Land As Your Legacy advisor will be arranged after this initial presentation to discuss your specific needs. [Register here.](#)

Your Support Needed

San Diego Agricultural Planning Program

The Agricultural Planning Program is a two-year planning grant funded by the CA Dept of Conservation with Cap-and-Trade proceeds, and is a collaboration with the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) and partners like Mission RCD, Farm to Institution Center, Foodshed, and SDSU.

We are now moving into a Policy Phase, where agricultural associations will be invited to join decision makers to address priority topics such as water availability, laws and regulations, and land access.

Interested in participating? Ask your local Ag Association to send a representative and reach out to us at ag@rcdsandiego.org for more information.



Educational Resources

Farmer & Farmworker Mental Health

If you, your family, or your staff are struggling with mental health, you are not alone. [Check out these resources](#) from the CDFA and get the support you need.

Catch Up on the CA Small Farm Conference

If you missed any sessions from the conference in February, you can [catch up on their YouTube channel here](#).

Funding Opportunities

Disaster Assistance Programs

USDA offers a variety of programs to help farmers, ranchers, communities, and businesses that have been hard hit by natural disaster events, like drought, fire and flooding. [See here for more info](#).

National Resource Conservation Service offers financial and technical support to agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers through the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**. [See here](#) for how to apply! Deadline for applications is April 1st, with additional funds set aside for border regions.

Get funding for carbon farming practices through **Zero Food Print's Restore CA** private grant. Their next funding cycle is in Spring 2022, so if you're interested [see here](#) for more info to prepare.

Zero Food Print's Compost Connector is designed to get the maximum greenhouse gas reduction from organic material--not sending it to the landfill is good, but turning organics into compost and applying it onto working lands is great. Everyone is eligible, though farms willing to take larger amounts of compost will likely be prioritized. Projects can be submitted at any time, and will be fulfilled on a rolling basis. For additional information, head to their [website](#).

COVID-19 Impacts

Has COVID-19 impacted your farm production or sales? \$4 million has already been distributed to businesses across the county affected by COVID-19. [You can learn how to apply here](#). Awards range from \$1,000 to \$50,000, and average \$5,000. Previous awardees include farms and ranches throughout San Diego County. The grant can be used to reimburse previous expenses, or for new expenditures within 60 days of the grant award.

CCOF's Bricmont Hardship Assistance Fund

The Bricmont Hardship Assistance Fund—named to honor founding CCOF member

exclusively to organic producers who suffer financial losses due to extreme hardship.

Applications are now closed but a new round of funding is expected next year - [see here to apply](#).

Mandela Partners CA BIPOC Farmer & Land Steward Relief Fund

The California BIPOC Farmer and Land Steward Relief Fund was created to provide financial support for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color farmers and land stewards impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and CA wildfires. [See here for eligibility to apply](#).

If you are a small-scale producer in San Diego or part of a socially disadvantaged group, we are here to help you complete your application and complete the grant. Reach us at ag@rcdsandiego.org.

Want more options for funding? [Check out UC Cooperative Extension's directory](#) of available opportunities!

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
- **Irrigation Evaluations** are free and available starting Fall 2022 - [sign up here](#)
- **Grant application support** for conservation practices and related programs
- **Technical guidance** for implementing conservation practices
- **Request a Carbon Farming Plan** [here](#)
- **Funding opportunity** updates for conservation practices
- **Plant selection** for native hedgerows and habitat buffers
- **Free chipping** for unincorporated County residents - [Visit Fire Safe Council](#)

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**RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**
Greater San Diego County

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