



### Contact Us!

[ag@rcdsandiego.org](mailto:ag@rcdsandiego.org) | 619-562-0096

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The RCD is committed to supporting San Diego's ever-growing community of

El Distrito de Conservación de Recursos (RCD) está comprometido a apoyar la

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 while conserving natural resources, reducing the risk of wildfire and adapting to the effects of climate change.

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. Ademas, esta manera de cultivación de tierras beneficia a las empresas agrícolas, 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 escribenos a [ag@rcdsandiego.org](mailto:ag@rcdsandiego.org).*



## Spring Safari at Rancho Jamul

Since Spring of 2019, the RCD of Greater San Diego has been working with rancher and co-owner of 4J Horse & Livestock, Co. on the sprawling 2,000 acres at the Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve. Funded by the [CDFA Healthy Soils](#) Demonstration Grant and with

and implement his prescribed grazing plan. Prescribed grazing is the practice of actively rotating herds through pastures to ensure that there is a period of rest for the vegetation to regenerate, and avoiding reducing a field to bare soil. Leaving roots and biomass in place helps to reduce erosion during heavy rains, increases water retention, and allows for more carbon to be sequestered in the soil. Following the grazing plan has additional benefits such as reducing fuel loads to reduce the severity of fire and enhancing habitat for certain grassland species like the burrowing owl.

Our team at RCD has worked closely with Mr. Austel and the CA Department of Fish & Wildlife over the years to monitor 6 different test and control sites throughout the ranch for stubble height, soil moisture content, and soil composition. In addition to our work, Mr. Austel also hosts other conservation efforts on the ranch. He supports the efforts of the CA Department of Fish & Wildlife and other conservation partners to monitor invasive species, preserve riparian habitat, enhance habitat for burrowing owls, and protect habitat for Quino Checkerspot butterfly.

While they still plan to practice prescribed grazing, to mark the end of our 3 year grant we hosted a Spring Safari and invited ranchers and conservation professionals to the ranch and see what we've been up to! We traveled with caravans to different fields to talk about the history and progress of the land, efforts to protect biodiversity and the important role that grazing plays in fire prevention. At the end of the tour folks gathered to learn from Liz Kellogg, Certified Rangeland Manager and President of Tierra Data, who wrote the grazing plan for the ranch. She shared the key components ranchers need to consider before starting a grazing plan, and tips for how they can get started. The Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve is a shining example of collaboration between ranching and conservation.

Managing rangeland is essential to our agricultural and ecological future, and we hope that we see more prescribed grazers in San Diego!



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## Upcoming Events

### **UC Cooperative Extension**

Wednesday, April 10th | 3:00pm - 5:00pm - SD Farm Bureau, Escondido

Meet your UCCE San Diego Farm Advisors and Program Representatives in - person!

[Register here.](#)

### **Peri-Urban Agriculture**

Wednesday, April 27th | 3:00pm - 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.](#)

### **Farm to Buyer Expo**

Tuesday, April 26th | 1:00pm - 4:00pm - Coastal Roots Farm, Encinitas

Join CHIP's Farm2Institution Center for an event that links farmers, chefs and food advocates to support a healthier future. RSVP by emailing [f2icenter@sdchip.org](mailto:f2icenter@sdchip.org).

## Graze at the Fields

Thursday, April 28th | 5:00pm - 8:00pm - Carlsbad Flower Fields

Featuring San Diego farmers, vintners & brewers, chefs, and local ag organizations, this is an agriculture insider event that is open to the public. Grazers will taste our local bounty with locally grown and curated bites and beverages while learning about the many facets of local agriculture. [Register here.](#)

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## Your Support Needed

### San Diego Agricultural Planning Program

The RCD team is looking for your help to create a regional plan which will strengthen the agricultural economy! 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. The strength of this project will depend on the support of the agricultural community - if you or someone you know works in agriculture in San Diego, we will be reaching out to you to:

- Let us know the challenges facing your operation by completing a virtual or in-person Producer Needs Assessment. [Click here to take it now](#) or contact us to set up an appointment to chat: [ag@rcdsandiego.org](mailto:ag@rcdsandiego.org) | 619-562-0096

**We are hosting an in-person listening session in**

**Escondido on Monday, April 11th.**

**Please fill out a Needs Assessment, and note that you would like to come.**

- Verify that current land use maps accurately represent all agriculture in our region
- Explain which policies could better support the agricultural community

[For more information, check out the flier here](#)

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RESOURCE  
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REGENERATING LAND, LIVELIHOODS & COMMUNITIESCOMMUNITY HEALTH  
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Working in Difference Together

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## Educational Resources

### California Rangeland Trust

Watch their new short film, [From the Ground Up: Healing Our Planet, Healing Ourselves](#), which explores the environmental, economic and social benefits of conserved rangeland.

You can also catch up on their most recent podcast, [Tuned into the Land!](#)

### The Nitty Gritty on California Soils - Web Series

The [California Farm Demonstration Network](#) is hosting a four-part series on California soils. This series will feature four speakers, each with extensive knowledge of California soils through the lens of farming and agriculture. Speakers will be covering various topics, including composting, orchard recycling, soil sampling, testing for microbial dynamics, and more. [Click here to register.](#)

This is a 4 part series on the following dates:

March 24, April 21, May 19, and June 16 | Each session will be 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m

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## 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.](#)

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The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (RCDGSDC) will award up to seven scholarships of \$1,000 each to senior students pursuing further education in the fields of resource conservation, environmental science, biology, sustainability, or agriculture.

To learn more and apply, [click here](#) and complete the Google application by 11:59pm Monday, April 4th, 2022.



**Conservation Scholarship**

*Are you interested in conservation, agriculture, environmental science, natural resources or biology?*

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

APPLY BY APRIL 4TH

The banner features a light orange background with a large circular image of a man with glasses reading a book in a field. A stylized leaf graphic is positioned above the man. A circular stamp with the text 'APPLY BY APRIL 4TH' is located to the left of the man's image.

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Do you want to get serious about conservation practices on your working land? The 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.

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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](#).

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### **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.

The Bricmont Hardship Assistance Fund—named to honor founding CCOF member Barney Bricmont—is the only fund in the nation that provides direct financial assistance 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](mailto:ag@rcdsandiego.org).

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

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## **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
- **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

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