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MARCH 2023

- Cover Cropping in San Diego •
- Farmer Advocacy to Elected Officials
 - Relief for Organic Farmers Dig into the details below!



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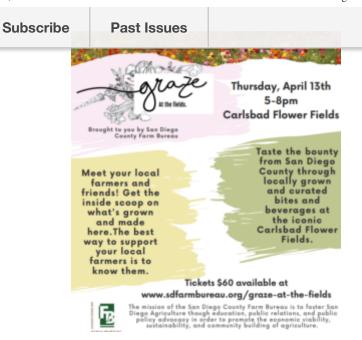
We enjoyed learning from local farmers at the Cover Cropping in San Diego webinar last month. If you missed it, *you can watch here*.

Which compost equipment is best for you? Watch the machines in action on this *short video clip*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 13th | 5:00pm Graze at the Fields Carlsbad Flower Fields Learn more and register here.

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Thursday, April 20th | 5:00pm Cattle Deworming Seminar - Cattlewomen's Association Julian Town Hall Subscribe

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CA Beginning Farmer & Rancher Series

<u>Click here for the Microsoft Teams link.</u> For more info email Victor

Hernandez: <u>Victor.Hernandez@USDA.GOV</u>

Spring 2023 Apprenticeship Program

Hosted by *Foodshed* and *Solidarity Farm*

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- o 760-689-0169
- Want to become a Farm Apprentice?
 - o Jose Alcaraz
 - 0 619-495-2360
 - <u>josefoodshed@gmail.com</u>

Save the Dates | May 8th - 14th

San Diego Pollinator Week

Community events focused on pollinator education and how to support them hosted throughout the week and across the county, for all ages. <u>See all events here!</u>

Thursday, May 11th | 9:00am - 12:00pm

Pollinator Habitat Field Day

Ramona Ranch Vineyard & Winery

Farmers are encouraged to join and learn about the benefits of hosting native habitat for insects, birds and more on your working land. Presentations by Wild Farm Alliance, Ramona Ranch, and more! *Register here*.



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WILD WILLOW FARIVI CLASSES

Monday, April 3rd - 9:00am | Intro to Spring Vegetable Gardening
Saturday, April 8th - 10:00am | Beekeeping 101: Intro to Beekeeping
Saturday, April 15th - 10:00am | Beekeeping 102: Beehive Building
Saturday, April 22nd - 10:00am | Beekeeping 103: Bee Rescue and Honey Harvest

...and many more! <u>Check out the full lineup and register here.</u>

SAN DIEGO AGRICULTURAL PLANNING PROGRAM

This April, we are meeting with local officials and agencies to improve agricultural policies across the region. Join us!

To advocate for policies that matter to you contact us at: ag@rcdsandiego.org.

Learn more about the Ag Planning Program on our website.

GRANT FUNDING, RELIEF AND SCHOLARSHIPS

BUSINESS SUPPORT

Disaster Relief for Organic Farmers (May 12)

Is your farm certified organic? CCOF offers up to \$5,000 in relief for economic impacts from natural disasters - *visit their website in April* to view the application.

Drought Relief for Smallscale Farmers (July 15)

Was your farm business impacted by drought in the last two years? CARCD offers up to \$20,000 for smallscale farms - <u>view the application online</u> in your language. Need help applying? Reach out to Elizabeth (<u>elizabeth.garcia@rcdsandiego.org</u>).

Incubator Farm Plots

Quarter-acre plots for beginning farmers at the Tijuana River Valley Community Garden. Rent is \$1200 for the 1st year and \$1400 going forward; water is billed

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CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (May 23)

Projects must incorporate research and education, and bring together a team of researchers, students, ag professionals, and producers. \$350,000 maximum, duration 1-3 years. Apply here.

Restore California (July 20)

Zero Foodprint is a private organization that funds farms to implement soil conservation practices which store carbon. Up to \$22,000 per producer. *Apply here*.

Compost Connector (Rolling)

Subsidized compost material and delivery from a certified facility of your choice. Offered to working farms and ranches by Zero Foodprint. *Apply here*.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (Rolling)

The US Department of Agriculture offers agricultural producers a cost-share to address resource concerns like flooding, erosion and soil health. Applications are accepted year-round and the next review date is April 3rd. <u>Learn how to apply here</u>.

Conservation and Land Management Assistance Workshop

<u>Check out this workbook</u> to see which local programs are available to you.

SCHOLARSHIPS

CCOF Future Organic Farmers Grant (April 14)

Grants for up to \$5,000 for higher education and vocational students studying organic agriculture. <u>Learn more and apply here.</u>

Jim Thompson Conservation Scholarship (April 24)

\$1,000 for high school seniors in San Diego to study agriculture or conservation in college. Two letters of recommendation required. *Apply online here*.

SUPPORT FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS

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- Irrigation Evaluations and rebates for pump efficiency tests
- Soil Sampling for nutrient analysis
- <u>Economic Relief</u> application assistance for drought and other impacts
- Planning for Carbon farming practices
- Native Habitat for Pollinators on working lands
- *Free Chipping* and defensible space for eligible homeowners

Contact Us!

ag@rcdsandiego.org | 619-562-0096

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