GET TICKETS

Grow your knowledge of local food systems, generate opportunities for community and economic development, and advance public policy related to food and agriculture.

2023 CONFERENCE

GET TICKETS
Grow Riverside & Beyond Conference

The GROW Riverside & Beyond Conference is a multi-stakeholder initiative to cultivate food and agricultural activities across the Inland Southern California region. The conference will equip the public with tools and knowledge to create a strong marketplace for local food systems, generate opportunities for community and economic development, advance public policy related to food and agriculture, and provide a venue for stakeholders to network.

Conference Speakers
Conference Schedule

Thursday, March 30 – Friday, March 31 at The Grove Community Church Conference Center

Day 1: March 30, 2023

TRACK 1: NUTS AND BOLTS OF SMALL SCALE URBAN FARMING - ROOM D-2

Session 1

Jean-Martin Fortier


Dr. Chandra Richa

Dr. Chandra Richa, Academic Chair, University of California, Riverside, supports the mis-
Conservation, equity, educat-
governments, Tr interested in pr
**Topic** | Regenerative Practices for the Small Scale and Urban Farms

**Summary** | You don’t have to have hundreds of acres to be regenerative! Explore basic practices to make your small scale farm ecologically sustainable and regenerative.

**Speaker** | Jean Martin Fortier

**Session 2**

**Topic** | Farmer Training and Small Farm Apprenticeship

**Summary** | There are many opportunities to learn to start or improve a farm operation. Join staff from the Ecological Agriculture Training Culture Center to learn about the Riverside Food Systems Alliance Sponsored Small Farm Apprentice Program and other training resources.

**Speaker** | Patrick Mitchell

**Session 3**

**Topic** | Integrating Animals into your Small Scale Farm Operation

**Summary** | Expand your farm’s biological diversity, improve soil and add new revenue streams by integrating animals into your vegetable operation.

**Speaker** | Patrick Mitchell

**TRACK 2: BUSINESS OF FARMING - ROOM D-4**

**Session 1**

**Topic** | Financing a Farm

**Summary** | Beyond banks, there are other forms of financing. Come learn about grants, agriculture loans, leasing options and more.

**Speakers** | Allison Paap & Rosalinda Delgado

**Session 2**

**Topic** | Marketing and Farm to School Programs

**Summary** | Discover new strategies for marketing your products and how farm to school could open up a new market for your business.

**Speakers** | Scott Berndt & Joseph Olvera
Session 3

Topic | Farm Resilience and Recovery

Summary | Fire, flood, drought, wind and pests are just some of the challenges farmers face. Explore practices and resources that aid farmers in staying resilient and recovery fast when problems occur.

Speaker | Evan Wiig

TRACK 3: RESILIENT FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ECOSYSTEMS - ROOM D-1

Session 1

Topic | Importance of Soil Health

Summary | Healthy soil is more than what you mix in it - it is also the art of what you plant and when.

Speaker | Amrita Mukherjee

Session 2

Topic | Northside Ag Innovation Center

Summary | Years in the making, how regional, public, private and nonprofit partners are developing an 8.8 acre site to create a community based agriculture-themed center to support education and workforce development and demonstrate urban agriculture’s role in food ecosystem resiliency.

Speakers | Fred Schwartz, Brit Steele, Scott Andrews, & Sheryl Anderson

Session 3

Topic | Healthy Soils and Climate Smart Ag

Summary | How to utilize healthy soils practices to reduce water use and using carbon to improve plant health.

Speakers | Scott Berndt

TRACK 4: COMMUNITY, HEALTH AND POLICY - ROOM D-3

Session 1
**Session 1**

**Topic | Importance of a Tool Library**

**Summary |** Tools Libraries are a great way for new and beginning farmers to reduce startup costs and for existing operations to save money during production improving success on
small scale to midsize farm operations. Learn about two different tool and equipment lending libraries in the Inland Empire and how they can benefit your operation.

**Speaker** | Scott Berndt & Patrick Mitchell

**Session 2**

**Topic** | Transitioning to Controlled Environmental Ag - Green Houses and Hoop Houses

**Summary** | Learn about some of the benefits and challenges of growing in a controlled environment including season extension opportunities, pest management and specialty crop production.

**Speaker** | Brit Steele & Hung Doan

**Session 3**

**Topic** | Grow Animals and Poultry for meat consumption for So Cal Consumers

**Summary** | Learn the ins and outs of sustainably raising healthy, happy poultry and other livestock in So Cal for So Cal customers.

**Speaker** | Paul Grieve

**Track 2: Business of Farming - Room D-4**

**Session 1**

**Topic** | Modern Food Safety

**Summary** | It's not the way your grandpa did it. Learn the new ways that institutions and buyers are making sure their food and produce is safe to eat and sell.

**Speaker** | Amrita Mukherjee & Deborah Ghamlouch

**Session 2**

**Topic** | Growing a Farmers' Guild

**Summary** | What exactly is a farmer's guild? Find out how you can benefit from sharing knowledge and resources with other farmers. Promote upcoming CDFA funded tool library and low cost trays of transplants.

**Speaker** | Patrick Mitchell, Evan Wig & Elizabeth Vaughan
Session 3

**Topic** | Direct Marketing, Farm Stands and Farmers Markets

**Summary** | Best practices in marketing, selling and creative ideas to make your sales soar.

**Speaker** | Deborah Ghamlouch, Evan Wiig & Elizabeth Vaughan

**TRACK 3:** SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS - ROOM D-1

Session 1

**Topic** | Farm Talk - Problem/Solution Exchange

**Summary** | Who knows better how to farm than an experienced farmer? Have questions? Bring them here!

**Speakers** | Jean Martin Fortier

Session 2

**Topic** | Organic Transitions and Certification

**Summary** | Organic is not just a sustainable way of farming. It’s a way of life, a marketing strategy and a movement. Come find out if your farm would benefit from transitioning to organic.

**Speaker** | Jasmine de Luna & Deborah Ghamlouch

Session 3

**Topic** | Farmer Wellness

**Summary** | Farming is stressful! Come learn skills and discover resources to help you stay mentally and emotionally healthy.

**Speaker** | Julie Jesmer

**TRACK 4:** COMMUNITY, HEALTH AND POLICY - ROOM D-3

Session 1

**Topic** | Food Systems Alliance: Who, What, Where, Why?
Summary | A food system is made up of growers, food hubs, farmers markets, grocery stores, eateries, food pantries, community gardens, gleaners, restaurants and food rescue groups. Making all the pieces fit together improves supply, freshness, health, equitable access and the local economy.

Speaker | Sue Struthers & Bryan Medina

Session 2

Topic | Upcoming Farm Bill

Summary | The Federal Farm Bill is the single largest and most important agriculture legislation impacting farms and food systems across the country. Learn how the upcoming farm bill affects local farms, farmers and consumers.

Speakers | Paul Towers

Session 3

Topic | Food Justice - Lessons Learned from Covid 19 and Addressing Food Access to Underserved

Summary | How the pandemic has highlighted vulnerabilities in the food system, local and regional responses, and lessons gained to inform building a more resilient regional food system.

Speakers | Emmanuel Marquez

GROW Dinner | Thursday, March 30 | 5:30pm

Grab your fork and knife, the Grow Farm-to-Fork Dinner is back! Enjoy an evening of entertainment, local food, and drinks at Gable Farms. This is a fundraiser dinner where proceeds support the Grow Riverside & Beyond initiative.
Join us for the Grow Riverside and Beyond conference.

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