

Voluntary Conservation and Land Management Assistance Workshop

**JANUARY 26, 2022
6 PM - 8 PM**





WELCOME!

We're excited to have you join us for the inaugural Voluntary Conservation and Land Management Assistance Workshop! This is a regional workshop for property owners looking for funding or technical assistance on conserving their land, agricultural operations, land management best practices, and more.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide resources to:

- Assist landowners to enhance and maintain native plants and animals on their lands
- Aid in resource management for farmers
- Add biological and conservation value to current uses and practices
- Help landowners understand planning processes and receive technical assistance; and
- Increase knowledge of technical assistance and grant programs for landowners.

This workbook outlines each of the programs participating in this workshop, as well as additional resources that may be helpful to you.

Co-Sponsored By:



**RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**
Greater San Diego County



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AGENDA

6:00 - 6:10 PM

Introductions & Meeting Overview

6:10 - 6:30 PM

Overview of Programs

6:30 - 6:55 PM

Breakout Session 1

7:00 - 7:25 PM

Breakout Session 2

7:30 - 7:55 PM

Breakout Session 3

7:55 - 8:00 PM

Thank You & Next Steps

Breakout Room

#1

**Restoration
Programs**

Breakout Room

#2

**Conservation &
Sustainability
Programs**

Breakout Room

#3

**Planning
Programs**

Breakout Room

#4

**Fire Safety
Programs**

Getting Started with Evaluating Your Property

A simple planning guide for evaluating resources on your private lands.

1. Get information about your property using the County's Initial Study Research Packet tool at www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/reports

2. Walk your property with resource concerns in mind – take a note pad and the aerial map from the Initial Study Research Packet. Look for erosion issues, non-native plants or invasive weeds, fire concerns like woody debris by structures, old trash dumps, and old fences that may tangle wildlife.

Don't just look for problems also look for positive things about your property. Look for oak groves, views, native habitat, home for your animals, home for native animals, and natural water.

3. When you return inside go over your notes and make a list of resource concerns, also list things that you like about your property (things you want to preserve, protect or support).

4. Think about which, if any, of the things on your list you would like to improve or keep as they are (protect/support). It might be helpful to prioritize your list based on different factors.

Some things to consider as you prioritize items are: How important is it to you? Is it a safety concern? Is it something I can take action on without a lot of cost? How big of a job is it to accomplish?

5. Based on your list of priorities, browse this workbook to determine if there are programs that could assist in accomplishing projects on your property.

6. Choose one item on your list and commit to improving that item in 2022.

Good Job! Essentially conservation and land management means keeping an eye on your property, learning about common resource concerns and issues, and then making a plan to take action.

Thanks for taking care of your property!

We hope that this guide has been helpful to you. If you have any suggestions on how to improve this planning guide, please send a note to Stephanie Neal at Stephanie.Neal@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Section 1

Restoration Programs

Healthy Soils Program
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Healthy Soils Program

DESCRIPTION:

Healthy Soils Program (HSP), is an initiative stemming from a collaboration of state agencies and departments to promote the development of healthy soils on California's farmlands and ranchlands. The program has two components which are the HSP Incentive Program and the HSP Demonstration Projects.

Eligible practices include On-farm management practices that include but are not limited to: Cover Cropping, No-till, Reduced till, Conservation plantings, Mulching, and Composting.



The HSP Incentives Program provides financial assistance for implementation of on-farm conservation management practices that improve soil health, sequester carbon and reduce GHG emissions.

THE HSP DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

- Showcase California farmers and rancher's implementation of HSP practices.
- Try out in the state, the viability of healthy soils' practices implemented elsewhere.
- Measure field GHG emissions and conduct analysis on cost/benefits for adoption of the proposed practice(s) and document anticipated barriers in California.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- California farmers, ranchers and Federal and California Recognized Native American Indian Tribes.
- Projects must be located on a California agricultural operation.
- University and research farms, and city community gardens are not eligible for funding through the HSP Incentives Program. These entities may apply for the HSP Demonstration Projects.
- Awards are limited to one per agricultural operation using a unique tax identification number per round of funding.
- Individuals or business entities receiving grant award funds must be located in California with a physical California business address.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

- \$100,000 for the Incentive program &
- \$250,000 for the Demonstration Projects

HOW TO APPLY:

Go to CDFA website listed below to apply.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Applications are on a rolling first-come-first-served basis, by 5:00 p.m. on February 25, 2022 or when funds are exhausted, whichever is earlier.

CONTACT(S):

Esther Mosase, enmosase@ucdavis.edu

www.cdca.gov/oefi/healthysouls/IncentivesProgram.html

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program



DESCRIPTION:

The US Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is a program with the goal of assisting private landowners with the restoration of native habitat for wildlife on their properties. The projects done through this program can assist with the removal of invasive species, restoring stream habitat, improving grassland habitat, or improving other types of native habitat that benefit native wildlife. This program provides both technical and financial assistance to private landowners.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Private landowners - in the case of this program this means non-state, non-federal lands. This could be private lands, land trusts, County and City owned land, and Tribal Lands.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

The local program has approximately \$75,000 available for 3-4 projects each year. We are looking for 1 to 1 matches to the funding provided either in cash from another partner or through in-kind contributions.

HOW TO APPLY:

If you have a project that you would like to submit for consideration, please contact Jonathan Snapp-Cook, Biologist, USFWS for a short questionnaire to fill out. Jonathan can be contacted at jonathan_snapp-cook@fws.gov or (760) 805-5608.

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

New applications are taken November to February each year, however, you can contact Jonathan with question about the program throughout the year.

CONTACT(S):

Jonathan Snapp-Cook, jonathan_snapp-cook@fws.gov, (760) 805-5608

Section 2

Conservation & Sustainability Programs

SALC Easement Grants
Purchase of Agricultural Easement (PACE) Program
Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Program
Rain Saving Containers
Septic Rebate Program
Compost Connector
State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP)
Western Sustainable Agriculture, Research and Education

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Easement Grants



DESCRIPTION:

The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) aims to fight climate change by protecting prime farmlands and encouraging compact transit-oriented communities and offers both planning and acquisition grants. A statewide program funded by the Strategic Growth Council and administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC), the acquisition grants offer funding to protect agricultural lands at the urban-rural fringe and on the outskirts of cities from development or conversion to non-agricultural uses.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Conservation buyers, specifically cities, counties, non-profit organizations, resource conservation districts, California Native American Tribes, regional park or open space districts and authorities; the buyer works in collaboration with a private landowner.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

SALC Acquisition grant awards offer 75% of the agricultural land appraisal value, or 100% of the appraisal value for socially-disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, in addition to up to \$50,000 available for real estate associated costs and up to \$10,000 for a carbon farming plan or management plan.

HOW TO APPLY:

If you are interested in applying for a SALC Acquisition Grant, please contact Chandra Richards, Academic Coordinator at UC ANR, at cmrichards@ucanr.edu or 619-786-2620 or the Department of Conservation at salcp@conservation.ca.gov for more information.

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Pre-proposals are due in June and full applications are due in mid-September each year. Contact Chandra or DOC with any questions regarding the program.

CONTACT(S):

Chandra Richards, cmrichards@ucanr.edu
Department of Conservation, salcp@conservation.ca.gov

Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Program



DESCRIPTION:

The County of San Diego's Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Program supports local agriculture by preventing agricultural lands from being developed for other uses.

Agricultural property owners receive a one-time payment from the County for voluntarily placing an easement on their property. As a result, the agricultural land is preserved for continued agricultural use for future generations.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Be zoned A70 – Limited Agriculture, A72 – General Agriculture, RR – Rural Residential, S90 – Holding Area, or S92 – General Rural; and
- Have been actively farmed and/or ranched for a minimum of two years immediately prior to applying

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Planning & Development Services receives \$1.5 million in General Fund appropriations and \$410,000 for implementation of Climate Action Plan Measure T-1.2 each year.

Typically, 5-8 properties are selected to receive an easement each year.

HOW TO APPLY:

The PACE Program accepts application year-round. Applications are ranked and selected for participation in the Spring of each year. You can fill out an application by visiting our website at the link below.

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Continuous, please submit by February 28, 2022 to be included in the 2022 application review cycle.

CONTACT(S):

Stephanie Neal, AgConservation@sdcounty.ca.gov, (858) 505-6677
www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/advance/PACE

Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Program



DESCRIPTION:

The County of San Diego Waterscape Rebate Program is offering a rebate to agricultural growers that will help cover the cost of irrigation upgrades recommended in a free irrigation evaluation, conducted by Mission Resource Conservation District (MRCD).

An efficient irrigation system provides crops with the required amount of water at the correct time and avoids costly over-watering.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Agricultural producers within unincorporated San Diego County that receive water from the San Diego County Water Authority (or member agencies).
- Growers must have one or more acres of planted, irrigated agricultural material.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Up to \$550/acre or \$5,000 (whichever is lower) to implement efficiency upgrades recommended by MRCD.

HOW TO APPLY:

To sign up for a free agricultural irrigation system evaluation, contact Luis Ramos (MRCD Agricultural Program Director) by phone or email.

Please include acreage, crop type, and contact information.

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Continuous

CONTACT(S):

Luis Ramos, info@missionrcd.org, (760) 728-1332

www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/watersheds/RebatesIncentives/AIEP.html

Rain-Saving Containers



DESCRIPTION:

The County of San Diego Waterscape Rebate Program is offering supplemental rebates on rain barrels and cisterns.

Using a rain-saving container allows you to actively choose what to do with the rainwater you capture and save money in the process.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Properties in unincorporated San Diego County
- Properties that receive water from the San Diego County Water Authority (or member agencies) are eligible for additional rebates

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

- \$30 per rain barrel
- \$100 per cistern
- \$0.75 per gallon stored (not to exceed \$2,100)

HOW TO APPLY:

Fill out an application form located on the website and submit pre-application photos.

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Continuous

CONTACT(S):

Eleonore Durand Walker, eleonorew@waterscaperebates.com, (201) 290-6680
www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/watersheds/RebatesIncentives/RainSaving.html

Septic Rebate Program



DESCRIPTION:

The County of San Diego Waterscape Rebate Program is offering rebates for having your septic system serviced after completing a brief online training.

The training covers proper septic maintenance, how regular maintenance can prevent system failures, what to look for in the event of a failure, how septic systems relate to water quality, and information on additional resources.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Septic system located on a property in the unincorporated County of San Diego
- Only County-approved septic pumpers are eligible for rebate program participation

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

\$100 per service (one septic system per parcel)

HOW TO APPLY:

1. Verify County Eligibility
2. Watch the County's Training Video
3. Apply for your rebate

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Continuous

CONTACT(S):

Watershed.Rebates@sdcounty.ca.gov

www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/watersheds/RebatesIncentives/SRP.html

Compost Connector

Applying for free compost through Compost Connector:



Farmer/rancher submits project(s) to Compost Connector, indicating compost product preference(s)



ZFP prioritizes projects based on ability of supply to fulfill project request, total project cost, & beneficial climate impact of completed project



ZFP notifies farmer/rancher that compost is available and initiates Compost Spreading Agreement

Wrapping up a successful Compost Connector application:



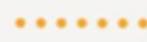
Compost delivery is arranged between applicant and manufacturing facility



Compost is picked up or delivered to farmer/rancher's land



Compost is spread! Send ZFP a picture so we know everything worked out



Farmer/rancher can enter new project(s) anytime at zerofoodprint.org/compost

DESCRIPTION:

As a result of new legislation, California is ramping up composting beginning in 2022. Zero Foodprint's newest program, Compost Connector, allows farmers to access free compost of their choice in this expanded marketplace. Zero Foodprint is working with local municipalities to connect composting facilities with farms and ranches so that each region's compost can be put to best use for healthy soil & healthy food.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

California farmers, ranchers & growers. All land & operation types and all acreage sizes are welcome in Compost Connector.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

There is no set funding for each project nor a cap on how many projects will be funded. If freight and/or spreading costs are prohibitive, Zero Foodprint will make every effort to cost-share so that project requests can be fulfilled.

HOW TO APPLY:

We encourage anyone who wants compost in 2022 to enter their project(s) on the website and we will fulfill requests as soon as possible. www.zerofoodprint.org/compost hosts more information and the project request form.

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

No deadline – Compost Connector is open as of October 2022 and is hopefully here to stay. Enter your project request(s) now so that we can start working on procuring your chosen compost!

CONTACT(S):

compost@zerofoodprint.org
www.zerofoodprint.org/compost

CDFA State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET)



DESCRIPTION:

The State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program (SWEET) is a grant program that funds projects that reduce water use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve irrigation efficiency. Some of the funded projects include amongst others; the Soil moisture sensors, Electronic weather station linked to irrigation controller, use of evapotranspiration (ET) based irrigation scheduling, conversion to micro-irrigation or drip irrigation, pump conversion from diesel to electric or to renewable energy such as solar, conversion to low-pressure irrigation system, Installation of a variable frequency drive (VFD's) and/or pump retrofit or replacement.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- California farmers, ranchers and Federal and California Recognized Native American Indian Tribes are eligible to apply.
- The farm location and the business mailing address must be in California.
- The irrigation project must be on a California agricultural operation.
- An agricultural operation cannot submit more than one application per unique tax identification number.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

The maximum grant award is \$200,000 and the maximum grant duration is 24 months.

HOW TO APPLY:

Use the link provided here (<https://www.cdca.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/>) to apply

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

January 18, 2022

CONTACT(S):

Esther Mosase, enmosase@ucdavis.edu

Western Sustainable Agriculture, Research and Education



DESCRIPTION:

WSARE is a competitive grants program designed to promote farmer-driven innovations in agriculture and natural resource management that improve profitability, land stewardship and quality of life in the 11 western states, Hawaii, Guam and Micronesia. To achieve this goal we operate through a collaborative effort conducted by producers, researchers, educators and other professionals.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Fiscal Year 2021

- Research and Education - \$3,500,000
- Farmer/Rancher - \$439,111
- Professional + Producer - \$439,111
- Graduate Student - \$390,000
- Sabbatical - \$150,000
- Professional Development - \$1,050,000
- R2G - \$638,411

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Farmers, ranchers, educators, tribes, NGOs and universities

HOW TO APPLY:

Go to <https://western.sare.org/grants/>

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Grad Student - 22 Feb 2022; R&E pre-proposal - 16 March 2022, Professional + Producer - 17 Aug 2022; Farmer/Rancher - 16 Aug 2022 PDP - May 2022; R2G - May 2022

CONTACT(S):

Clayton Marlow - cmarlow@montana.edu, Irene Grimberg - grimberg@montana.edu or Jenna Meeks - jmeeks@sare.org

Section 3

Planning Programs

SALC Planning Grants
Carbon Farm Planning
Working Lands for Pollinators
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
California Family Farmer Emergency Fund (CAFF)
Small Farm Tech Hub at CAFF

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Planning Grants



DESCRIPTION:

The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) aims to fight climate change by protecting prime farmlands and encouraging compact transit-oriented communities and offers both planning and acquisition grants. A statewide program funded by the Strategic Growth Council and administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC), the planning grants offer funding to develop and implement plans for the protection of agricultural lands at risk of conversion to non-agricultural uses.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Cities, counties, LAFCOs, California Native American Tribes, councils of governments, municipal planning organizations, regional transportation planning or groundwater sustainability agencies, special districts with land use or transportation planning authority.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

A SALC Planning grant award offers \$250,000 for one applicant or \$500,000 for two or more applicants with extensive outreach community engagement or infill housing planning elements. In addition, the application must include a minimum of 10% match funding, which may be provided directly by the applicant or from other funding sources. (e.g. local government contributions or donations).

HOW TO APPLY:

If you are interested in applying for a SALC Acquisition Grant, please contact Chandra Richards, Academic Coordinator at UC ANR, at cmrichards@ucanr.edu or 619-786-2620 or the Department of Conservation at salcp@conservation.ca.gov for more information.

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Pre-proposals are due in July and full applications are due in mid-September each year. Contact Chandra or DOC with any questions regarding the program.

CONTACT(S):

Chandra Richards, cmrichards@ucanr.edu
Department of Conservation, salcp@conservation.ca.gov

Carbon Farm Planning



DESCRIPTION:

Climate Smart Agriculture includes conservation practices that make a farm or ranch more resilient to the effects of climate change. A Carbon Farm Plan helps a land manager to prioritize practices and envision a path to increased productivity. While similar to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Plan, a Carbon Farm Plan uses practices that build soil organic matter and plant biomass, such as mulching, hedgerows and prescribed grazing. Funding assistance for Carbon Farm Plans is available from CA Dept of Food & Agriculture and NRCS.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Agricultural producers and grazing land managers with multi-year land tenure.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Site Assessment
Carbon Farm Plan Development
Assistance with Application for Funding
Conservation Practice Monitoring

HOW TO APPLY:

Would you like to develop a Carbon Farm Plan for your land? Resource Conservation Districts (RCD) in San Diego County are trained to assess needs, develop plans, pursue funding and implement practices. To see examples of plans for a ranch in Santa Ysabel or row crops in Campo, visit the RCD of Greater San Diego County website.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Ongoing

CONTACT(S):

Joel Kramer | joel.kramer@rcdsandiego.org | (619) 562-0096 x 103
www.rcdsandiego.org/programs/carbon-farming/

Working Lands for Pollinators



DESCRIPTION:

In partnership with NRCS and Partners for Fish & Wildlife, the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County is offering technical assistance and some funding to expand pollinator habitat conservation/restoration on working lands. This opportunity will involve a site assessment to provide private working land owners with information and resources for adding pollinator habitat to their lands, which includes helping them to identify areas on their farms/ranches for establishing habitat, assisting them with planning, and connecting them with NRCS and other programs to implement the specific conservation practices.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Private owners of working lands (agriculture and/or rangeland)

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Technical Assistance for 10 interested land owners - no financial funding, includes a site assessment and plan of action and resources to increase pollinator habitat on property

Funding and Technical Assistance for 3 interested land owners - Purchase of native seed and up to \$1,000 to prepare site for habitat

HOW TO APPLY:

Connect with the pollinator team at Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego to set up a site visit and see if you are a candidate for technical assistance and/or funding.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Ongoing

CONTACT(S):

pollinators@rcdsandiego.org

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

DESCRIPTION:

EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agriculture producers and non-industrial forest managers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improve water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health an reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against drought and increasing weather volatility.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Applicant must be engaged in agriculture production
- Eligible land includes cropland, nurseries, rangeland, forestland, and other farm lands

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

USDA is offering \$41.8 million through EQIP to help agricultural producers in Arizona, California, Colorado, and Oregon.

HOW TO APPLY:

If interested apply by April 12, 2022 by contacting your local USDA Service Center

DEADLINE TO APPLY: April 12, 2022

CONTACT(S):

Raul Alvarado; raul.alvarado@usda.gov; : (760) 705-9873
Isabel Garcia; isabel.garcia@usda.gov; (760) 745-2061 Ext. 9872

California Family Farmer Emergency Fund



California FAMILY FARMER EMERGENCY FUND

DESCRIPTION:

From wildfires to drought to global pandemics, farming is risky business. Despite being the heart of our local food systems, these community-scale entrepreneurs too often fall between the cracks of traditional safety nets and government aid. That's where The California Family Farmer Emergency Fund comes in. These funds offer direct financial support to small-scale farmers impacted by disaster with the aim of helping them weather the storm.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Family farmers who are actively working the land, derive a portion of their income from their own farm business, and are involved in the day-to-day operations of the farmers
- Farmers whose operations make a minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$400,000 in gross sales annually
- Because of systems of historic oppression, the most vulnerable populations often bear the brunt of a crisis. For this reason, at least 50% of all grant funds will be awarded to farmers of color, immigrant farmers, and undocumented farmers.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

\$5,000 grants per farm

HOW TO APPLY:

Continue to check the CAFF website and subscribe for updates on when the next round of funding will be made available. CAFF conducts ongoing fundraising for this grant program and will announce when new rounds of funding are available.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Ongoing

CONTACT(S):

info@caff.org

caff.org/cafamilyfarmeremergencyfund/

Small Farm Tech Hub at CAFF



small farm
TECH HUB



DESCRIPTION:

The Small Farm Tech Hub at CAFF provides free support services & resources to farms, farmers markets, and food hubs operating out of CA. We help find right-fit technologies for the small farm to help producers and business owners navigate technological resources & expand their market opportunities. We provide one on one technical support consultations and provide free workshops and resources to small farms. Support topics may include online sales, e-commerce, social media, social media stores, email marketing, and more!

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Any farm, farmers market, or food hub operating in California.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Free Support

HOW TO APPLY:

Visit www.caff.org/techhub to submit a request or support or email techtub@caff.org

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Ongoing support available

CONTACT(S):

Elizabeth Vaughan, techhub@caff.org
www.caff.org/techhub

Section 4

Fire Safety Programs

No-Cost Chipping Program
Defensible Space Assistance Program

No-Cost Chipping Program



DESCRIPTION:

Maintaining the legally-required 100 feet of defensible space around your property can be a challenge. Once you've taken the necessary steps to protect your property by thinning and trimming hazardous brush, you are often left with large piles of dry vegetation, which can themselves become a fire hazard. The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County created this program to get rid of this hazardous vegetative debris, turning it into a useful, weed-suppressing mulch. Get your piles ready, and our crew will come to your property to chip the debris on site.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Any homeowner/landowner in San Diego County.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego in partnership with the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County has received grant funds from San Diego River Conservancy, San Diego Gas and Electric, and the United States Forest Service to administer the program. We service roughly 100 homes per quarter with these funds.

HOW TO APPLY:

The No-Cost Chipping Program takes applications year-round as funding permits. Applicants are scheduled at a first-come, first-serve basis. The application can be found online at <https://firesafesdcounty.org/no-cost-chipping/> or applicants may call our office at 619-562-0096 to fill out the application over the phone.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: There is no deadline. This program is continuous.

CONTACT(S):

Morgan Graves, morgan.graves@rcdsandiego.org, 619-562-0096
www.firesafesdcounty.org/no-cost-chipping/

Defensible Space Assistance Program



DESCRIPTION:

The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County's Defensible Space Assistance Program is designed to assist homeowners that need to create defensible space, and are not able to do so because of physical, economic or other barriers. It is imperative that all homeowners maintain at least 100 feet of defensible space around their homes to aid in protecting themselves and their communities from the devastation of wildfire. Through this program, we provide services including, but not limited to, tree trimming, brush thinning, dead tree removal, etc.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

The population targeted for the DSAP program is those who are not able to do this work for themselves because of physical, economic, or other barriers. You must be the legal owner of the property and meet an income requirement which can be found on our website.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego in partnership with the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County has received grant funds from San Diego River Conservancy, San Diego Gas and Electric, and the United States Forest Service to administer the program. We service roughly 100 homes per quarter with these funds.

HOW TO APPLY:

The DSAP Program takes applications year-round as funding permits. Applicants are scheduled at a first-come, first-serve basis. The application can be found online at <https://firesafesdcounty.org/no-cost-chipping/> or applicants may call our office at 619-562-0096 to fill out the application over the phone.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: There is no deadline. The program is continuous.

CONTACT(S):

Morgan Graves, morgan.graves@rcdsandiego.org, 619-562-0096
www.firesafesdcounty.org/no-cost-chipping/

Section 5

Other Assistance Programs

Private Resource Management Plan Program
Organic Materials Recycling Assistance
Healthy Soils Program Assistance
Become an Organic Grower
Agricultural Water Quality Program
Pest Exclusion and Pest Detection Programs
Integrated Pest Control Program
Taking Your Farm Organic
SD Ag Planning Program - Producer Needs Assessment
Farm Operating and Ownership Loans
Emergency Loan Program
Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees & Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Organic & Transitional Education and Certification Program
Emergency Conservation Program
Dairy Margin Coverage and Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage
Spot Market Hog Pandemic Program
UC Integrated Pest Management

Private Resource Management Plan Program

DESCRIPTION:

A Private RMP is a guidance document that identifies the required monitoring and management activities necessary to sustain the biological values for a specific site in perpetuity. A Private RMP serves as a mitigation tool for impacts to biological resources resulting from private development projects, where mitigation lands exceed 50 acres or if a particularly sensitive resource is present.

CONTACT(S):

Tanya.Agrawal@sdcounty.ca.gov, Autumn.Viglione@sdcounty.ca.gov

WEBSITE: www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/mscp.html

Organic Materials Recycling Assistance

DESCRIPTION:

The County's Organic Materials Recycling Assistance Program helps landowners, businesses, and institutions with on-site composting and other organic materials management options. Resources are available for small to medium scale projects as well as to large, industrial scale composting operations. Aid may include technical assistance with operational planning, design, permitting and troubleshooting.

CONTACT(S):

Steve Weihe, Recycle@sdcounty.ca.gov (858) 694-2456

WEBSITE: www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/businessrecycling.html

Healthy Soils Program Assistance

DESCRIPTION:

The Solana Center for Environmental Innovation offers workshops and technical assistance to those applying for Healthy Soils Program grants from the state. Healthy Soils Program assistance is available for any applicants in San Diego County.

CONTACT(S):

Diane Hazard, diane.hazard@solanacenter.org

WEBSITE: www.solanacenter.org/free-compost-workshops

Become an Organic Grower

DESCRIPTION:

To ensure organic integrity of organic products grown, packaged, and/or sold in San Diego County. We do this through random inspections at all locations where organic product is grown, stored, or sold and through random sampling for pesticide residue analysis.

CONTACT(S):

Monica Winters, Monica.Winters@sdcounty.ca.gov

WEBSITE: www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/awm/organic.html

Agricultural Water Quality Program

DESCRIPTION:

The County of San Diego Agricultural Water Quality Program (AWQ) helps to ensure that our waterways are protected by preventing pollutants from commercial agricultural businesses from entering the County's storm drain system.

CONTACT(S):

Kimberly Greene, Kimberly.Greene@sdcounty.ca.gov

WEBSITE: www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/awm/ag_water.html

Pest Exclusion and Pest Detection Programs

DESCRIPTION:

Pest Exclusion is the first line of defense in keeping out unwanted pests. Inspections are performed on plant shipments coming into and leaving San Diego County in addition to annual inspections of production nurseries to look for damaging pests. The Pest Detection program looks for exotic insects in over 9,000 traps that are placed in residential yards throughout the County for this purpose. Early detection allows eradication efforts to begin before pests multiply and spread, becoming economically and technically impossible to control.

CONTACT(S):

Travis Elder, Travis.Elder@sdcounty.ca.gov; Jason Schwartz, Jason.Schwartz@sdcounty.ca.gov

WEBSITE: www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/awm/pest_det.html; www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/awm/ppq.html

Integrated Pest Control Program

DESCRIPTION:

The Integrated Pest Control program works to control invasive and noxious weeds within region. Invasive weeds establish populations that result in uncontrolled growth that can cause economic and environmental problems such as increased wildfire fuel loads, potential harm to local agriculture, and threaten endangered species and habitats.

CONTACT(S):

Mark Martinez, Mark.Martinez@sdcounty.ca.gov

WEBSITE: www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/awm/ipc.html

Taking Your Farm Organic

DESCRIPTION:

What does it mean to be organically certified, what steps to take to evaluate your potential and how to prepare the documents to apply for Organic Certification. Plus the USDA pandemic program to pay for Organic Certification costs from 2020, 2021, and 2022.

CONTACT(S):

Scott A. Murray - scottamurray@sbcglobal.net

WEBSITE: edgeofurbanfarm.com

SD Ag Planning Program - Producer Needs Assessment

DESCRIPTION:

As part of our long-term San Diego Ag Planning Program, we are conducting Producer Needs Assessments, to learn from those working in the ag industry about the challenges they face and support they need. Take it online (link below) or schedule by phone/in person.

CONTACT(S):

For phone or in-person session: ag@rcdsandiego.org | 619-562-0096

WEBSITE: <https://ResourceConservationDistrict.formstack.com/forms/sdagplanningeligibility>

Farm Operating and Ownership Loans

DESCRIPTION:

Eligible farmers and ranchers may apply for loans up to \$600K to cover operating expenses (purchase of livestock, equipment, etc) and/or purchase farm real estate or make capital improvements to farm. Operating loan terms up to 7 years; ownership terms up to 40.

CONTACT(S):

Locate your local FSA Office here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE: www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans

Emergency Loan Program

DESCRIPTION:

Eligible farmers and ranchers who own or operate land in a county declared by the President or Secretary of Agriculture as a primary disaster area can apply for fully collateralized loans to restore or replace essential farm property due to a disaster. Borrowing limited to 100% of actual production or physical losses to a maximum of \$500K.

CONTACT(S):

Locate your local FSA Office here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE: www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

DESCRIPTION:

Program provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government. Payments are equal to 75% of avg. fair market value of livestock.

CONTACT(S):

Locate your local FSA Office here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE: www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-indemnity/index

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees & Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)

DESCRIPTION:

Program provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm raised fish for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events as determined by the Secretary. Includes assistance for feed transportation costs.

CONTACT(S):

Locate your local FSA Office here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE: www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-assist-for-livestock-honey-bees-fish/index

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance

Program

DESCRIPTION:

This program provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.

CONTACT(S):

Locate your local FSA Office here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE: www.fsa.usda.gov/nap

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

DESCRIPTION:

This program pays a yearly rental payment in exchange for farmers removing environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and planting species that will improve environmental quality.

CONTACT(S):

Locate your local FSA Office here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE: www.fsa.usda.gov/crp

Organic & Transitional Education and Certification Program

DESCRIPTION:

This program provides assistance for certified organic operations and transitional operations that incurred eligible expenses in fiscal years 2020, 2021 and/or 2022. This is part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers Initiative. Deadline to apply is 2/4/22.

CONTACT(S):

Locate your local FSA Office here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE: farmers.gov/otecp

Emergency Conservation Program

DESCRIPTION:

This program provides funding to assist farmers and ranchers repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and to help put in place methods for water conservation during severe drought.

CONTACT(S):

Locate your local FSA Office here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE: www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/emergency-conservation/index

Dairy Margin Coverage and Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage

DESCRIPTION:

DMC offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. Supplemental DMC allows supplemental production to be enrolled.

CONTACT(S):

Local FSA Office: Locate here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE: www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/dairy-margin-coverage-program/index

Spot Market Hog Pandemic Program

DESCRIPTION:

This program provides pandemic assistance to hog producers who sold hogs through a negotiated sale from 4/16/20 through 1/20/20 - the period in which these producers faced the greatest reduction in market prices due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONTACT(S):

Local FSA Office: Locate here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE: www.farmers.gov/smhpp

UC Integrated Pest Management

DESCRIPTION:

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program assists residents, growers, land managers, community leaders, and other professional pest managers prevent and solve pest problems, while managing pests using safe and effective techniques and strategies that protect people and the environment.

CONTACT(S):

UCCE Area IPM Advisor for Southern California

WEBSITE: ipm.ucanr.edu

Section 6

Hot Topics



Organic Farming

INTRODUCTION:

San Diego County has always been at the forefront of organic farming. The county has over 350 growers registered as organic. In 2017, organic growers in the county produced more than 150 unique crops and over 320 unique crop varieties. Crop varieties range from the usual such as oranges, grapes, and avocados to the unusual like cherimoyas, loquats, and jujubes.

The majority of organic produce grown locally is sold to wholesalers who in turn sell it to markets across the United States. Organic growers can also sell directly to the public through produce stands, Certified Farmers' Markets throughout the region, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs. The USDA's National Organic Program defines "organic agriculture" as an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. This means that organic operations must maintain or enhance soil and water quality, while also conserving wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife. Synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, irradiation, and genetic engineering may not be used. San Diego County has 9.6% of the total number of organic growers in the state.

The California Organic Products Act of 2003 (now the California Organic Food and Farming Act) was created at the request of the organic food industry with the goal of protecting producers, handlers, processors, retailers, and consumers of organic foods sold in California. The law amended existing California organic law to conform with the requirements of the National Organic Program (NOP) and enforced labeling requirements relating to "organic" claims for fresh agricultural products.

The law divides the oversight responsibilities between the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) which is responsible for processed food products, cosmetics and pet food, and the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA) which is responsible for raw agricultural commodities, meat, poultry, and dairy products. The County Agricultural Commissioner works with CDFA's Organic Program in registering organic growers, enforcing applicable organic laws and regulations, and investigating consumer complaints regarding organic products.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

Every person engaged in this state in the production or handling of raw agricultural products sold as organic must register with CDFA before the first sale of the product. You can register online with CDFA at organic.cdfa.ca.gov/OrganicReg

Registration fees are based on operation type or activity and gross sales. Fees can be viewed by going to the CDFA website. In general, most farms and businesses that grow, handle, or process organic products and have gross sales of more than \$5,000 must be certified.

CDFA has a list of Accredited Certifying Agents (ACA) who are registered with the SOP www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/docs/CertifiersList.pdf

Integrated Pest Control

INTRODUCTION:

The Integrated Pest Control Program (IPC) promotes public safety, protects County infrastructure and the environment, and reduces wild land fire fuels through its control and eradication of pests and weeds. IPC works under the Board of Supervisors' Policy F-45 "Pesticide Use Reduction" that requires the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), an effective and environmentally sound approach in mitigating pest issues. IPM incorporates current scientific information and control methods to manage and eradicate weeds and pests by the most economical means with the least possible impact to people, property, and the environment. The IPC Team is comprised of experienced and State-licensed pest control applicators who deliver excellent customer service to the public and County staff.

A core function of IPC is to survey and control invasive and noxious weeds within the region. Invasive weeds are considered one of the biggest threats to endangered species and their habitats. These plants establish populations in new areas resulting in uncontrolled growth and causing economic and environmental problems such as increased wildfire fuel loads. IPC follows a strategic approach toward the eradication and management of invasive weeds in the region, working across jurisdictional boundaries to protect native plants and animals, restore habitats, and ensure the sustainability of local agriculture. IPC also co-chairs the San Diego Weed Management Area (SDWMA), a group of agencies, organizations and individuals working together to control prioritized invasive and noxious plant species within the region.

Top 10 Invasive Weed Species to be on the lookout for:



Voluntaria



Wards Weed



Spotted Knapweed



Yellow Starthistle



Carnation Spurge



Eupatory



French Broom



Bridal Broom



Barbed Goat Grass



Canary Island St. John's Wort