



# Central Coast Soil Hub Newsletter

Winter 2026

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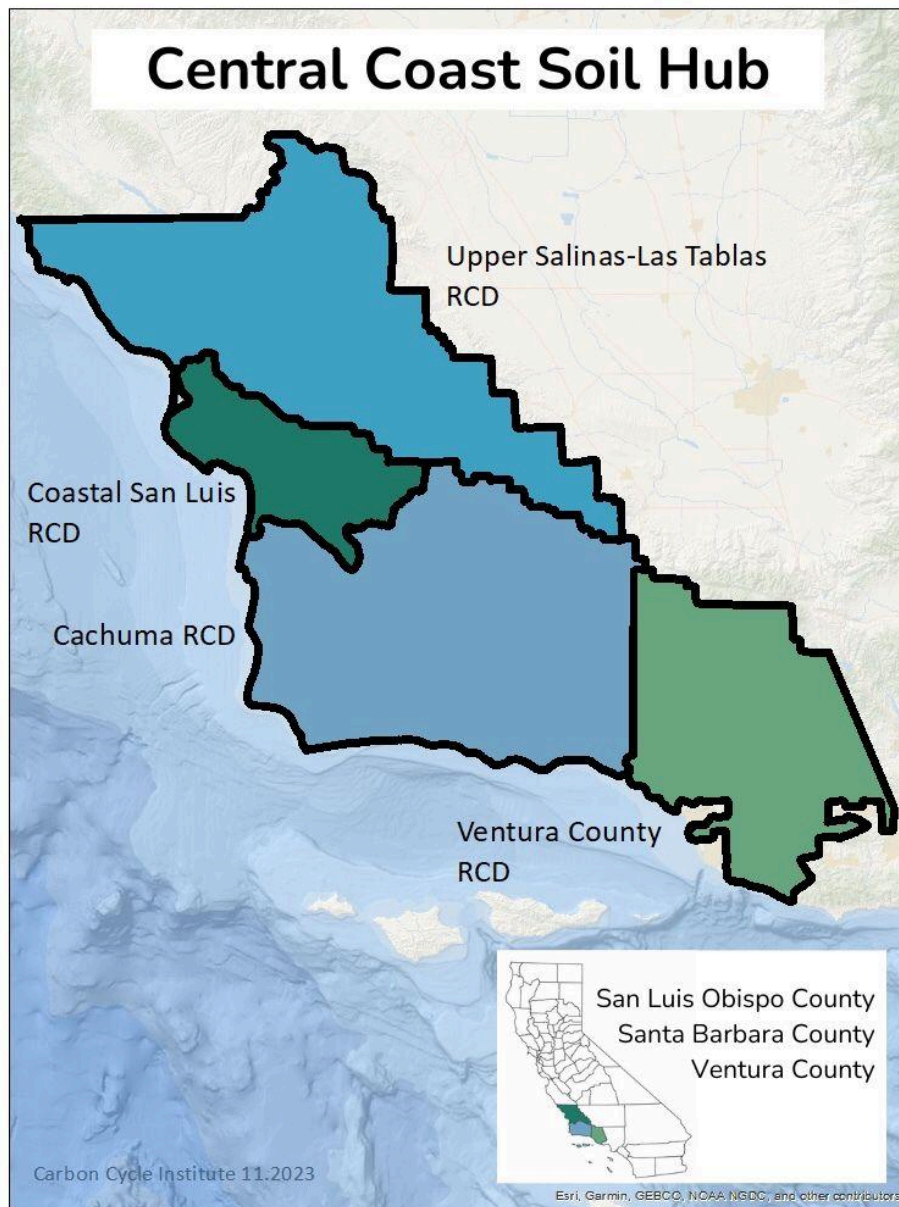
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[Click here to view all of the flyers and resources referenced in this edition of the newsletter](#)

## Regional Updates

The Central Coast Soil Hub spans three counties and includes four Resource Conservation Districts. The following updates are relevant to farmers, ranchers, and other land managers throughout this entire region.



## **Soil Hub Hires Rangeland Conservation Planner**

**Technical assistance and conservation planning available across the region**

We are excited to announce the next phase of the Central Coast Soil Hub's regional rangeland conservation program. We have hired Grant Johnson as our new regional rangeland conservation planner. Grant will be based out of the Coastal San Luis RCD but he is available to provide technical assistance to ranchers and rangeland managers in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. He will also play a major role in continuing the development of the Central Coast Rancher-to-Rancher network, as well as organizing a variety of technical workshops focused on rangeland conservation.

Born and raised on the Central Coast of California, Grant has always had a deep connection to the land. He studied Biology with a minor in Chemistry, and after graduating, he naturally found his way to the local Resource Conservation District, where he spent four years working on restoration projects and supporting local ranchers and farmers. While this work was meaningful and fulfilling, he felt called to deepen his understanding of grazing management, soil health, and get more on the ground experience.

Grant left the RCD to work and learn on ranches throughout the West, gaining practical experience and studying under respected mentors in holistic management. During this time, he became a certified holistic management practitioner and educator.



He was also selected to participate in the Integrity Soils CREATE program led by Nicole Masters—a 34-week intensive designed to train consultants and coaches in the principles and practices of healthy, agroecological systems. This experience broadened his understanding of ecosystem processes and strengthened his approach to working with both land and people.

Grant continues to manage land and is currently expanding his cow–calf herd. When he’s not working, he enjoys being outdoors, surfing, spending time with friends, family, and partner, and—of course—putting his cows back where they’re supposed to be.

If you’d like to get in contact with Grant, you can reach him at [gjohnson@coastalrcd.org](mailto:gjohnson@coastalrcd.org)

## **New Google Group Connects Rancher-to-Rancher Attendees**

We are launching the Rancher-to-Rancher Central Coast Google Group to provide a way to keep in touch with attendees from our ongoing Rancher-to-Rancher gatherings. This group is a place to ask questions, share resources, and announce relevant events and gatherings. View the group [HERE](#) and click “Ask to Join Group” to sign up.

Please note that posts are moderated and will require approval before sharing with the full group. Additionally, any reply sent to the group address ([r2r\\_cc@googlegroups.com](mailto:r2r_cc@googlegroups.com)) will be sent to the full membership list.

## **New Deadline for NRCS Programs**

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service set Jan. 15th, 2026 as the first “batching deadline” for its core conservation programs (including EQIP, CSP, and the new Regenerative Pilot Program. This means that all applications received before Jan. 15th

will be considered for funding with this “batch” of applications, while any received after the cutoff date will be evaluated at a later date. NRCS will continue to accept applications for conservation programs on a continuous basis.

Learn more about the new batching date [HERE](#) and read about the Regenerative Pilot Program [HERE](#).

## Society for Range Management Comes to Central Coast

The 2026 Society for Range Management Annual Meeting will be held “just up the road” in Monterey, February 7th-11th. The SRM meeting brings together ranchers, graziers, range managers, and researchers from all over the world to “elevate global awareness about the critical importance of healthy rangeland ecosystems and their contribution to economic prosperity, sustainable livelihoods, and food security throughout the world.”

The 2026 meeting will feature educational presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, a trade show, and a variety of field demonstrations and tours held throughout the Central Coast.

Learn more and register [HERE](#)

## Funding Available Through USFWS Partners Program

The Partners Program is a free, voluntary resource offered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that provides technical and financial assistance for restoring wildlife habitat on private lands. Example projects include fencing and troughs for grazing management, erosion control along roads and stream crossings, enhancing stock ponds, controlling invasive weeds, and more. Partners Program biologists work directly with you to develop a cooperative agreement and implement the project.

To get started, reach out to your local Partners Program biologists serving the Central Coast:

San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara counties:

Dylan Wilder

[dylan\\_wilder@fws.gov](mailto:dylan_wilder@fws.gov)

Ventura and southern Santa Barbara counties:

Michael Glenn

[michael\\_glenn@fws.gov](mailto:michael_glenn@fws.gov)

The Partners Program also has a **no-till seed drill available** for cooperators to borrow and use on restoration projects. It is available at no cost and Partners Program biologists provide transport and training. Contact Dylan Wilder if interested.

Learn more about the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program [HERE](#).

## **Funds Still Available: Pollinator Habitat Program Grants**

The Ventura County Resource Conservation District (VCRCD), Cachuma RCD (CRCD), Community Environmental Council (CEC), and Santa Barbara Botanical Garden (SBBG) are offering reimbursements up to \$200,000 for the implementation of pollinator habitat on agricultural landscapes that meet pre-approved NRCS practice standards. Working together, we will help farmers and ranchers in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties to install habitat and implement management practices that support pollinators.

Program funds are still available! Project partners are able to meet virtually or onsite to support project design and get practices on the ground. All projects must be completed by December 2026, so reach out today to Camila Leon at CEC ([cleon@cecmail.org](mailto:cleon@cecmail.org)) if interested.

## **USDA Farm Service Agency Now Accepting Applications for Second Stage Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP)**

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is now accepting applications for assistance through the second stage of the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) from agricultural producers who suffered eligible non-indemnified, uncovered or quality crop losses due to qualifying natural disasters in 2023 and 2024.

Stage Two covers eligible crop, tree, bush and vine losses that were not covered under Stage One program provisions, including non-indemnified (shallow loss), uncovered and quality losses. Stage One assistance, announced in July, remains available to producers who received an indemnity under crop insurance or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for eligible crop losses due to qualifying 2023 and 2024 natural disaster events.

The deadline to apply for both Stage One and Stage Two assistance is April 30, 2026.

Learn more about the program [HERE](#)

## **Funding and Resources Available Through UCCE Small Farms Network**

The [UCCE Small Farms Network](#) is dedicated to providing support to small and medium scale farms throughout California. These are farms that are typically underserved by other federal and state programs and so they may welcome support with

questions about production, pest management, grant and incentive programs, and other aspects of agriculture. Small Farms staff are ready to connect farmers to resources - either within the larger UCANR network or within regional community partners - that support their business goals and long-term sustainability.

Available now is the [California Underserved and Small Producer](#) grant, designed to support small farms with disaster relief reimbursement. More information can be found on the attached flyer.

Regional UCCE staff can be reached at: [ctuoheymote@ucanr.edu](mailto:ctuoheymote@ucanr.edu) or 805-704-9098 to assist with applications.

## **Regenerative Ranching Internship for College Students**

Redwing Ranch, a regenerative cattle ranch in Colorado with connections to Cal Poly and the Central Coast, is seeking applications from motivated college students interested in a summer internship at the ranch. Gain hands-on experience through ranch-hand level work in regenerative grazing, while also taking the lead on a management-focused internship project.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the ranch, and view the internship opportunity [HERE](#).

## **Survey on Water-Related Challenges Facing Small Farms**

University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources is conducting a survey on water-related challenges facing small-scale farmers throughout California. Click [HERE](#) to contribute to the survey.

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## **San Luis Obispo County**

### **Free Conservation Plans Available Through CSLRCD**

The Coastal San Luis RCD is offering free conservation plans for agricultural producers. Whether you are interested in a whole-farm approach to conservation (such as a Carbon Farm Plan) or want to focus on a specific resource concern (such as a Soil Health Management Plan), CSLRCD staff are available to help craft a plan to meet your conservation goals.

Click [HERE](#) for more information, or email Rhealynn Ravarra ([rravarra@coastalrccd.org](mailto:rravarra@coastalrccd.org))

# FREE CONSERVATION PLANS!

FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS



## WHAT ARE CONSERVATION PLANS?

*A conservation plan is a site specific guide for achieving your conservation goals!*

## TYPES OF AVAILABLE PLANS

- Soil Health Management
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Pollinator Habitat
- Carbon Farming

### Registration open for Cuesta College Ranch Education classes

Registration is now open for the Cuesta College Ranch Education Classes. Although the first class begins Jan. 24th, you can register up to the day of classes.

Jan 20- March 21 online and in person Saturdays 8-12 taught by Grant Johnson

#### VOCE 565C INTRODUCTION TO LAND USE PLANNING AND GRAZING

Provides students with an introduction to land use and grazing planning using holistic and sustainable planning methods. Covers interpreting and applying land use regulations, operation design, planning and mapping methods, and planning targeted grazing.

April 4 – May 16 in person Saturdays 8-1:30 taught by Nic Moss

### VOCE 565A INTRODUCTION TO FARM MAINTENANCE

Provides students with an introduction to different types of agricultural operations, and a working knowledge of basic farm safety, farm, ranch and landscape construction and maintenance. Covers fundamental construction and maintenance of shelters, fencing, water systems, pastures and landscaping, and general handling and care of livestock.

## **Technical Assistance Available for Groundwater Issues**

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers is offering technical assistance to small farmers facing groundwater issues in the San Luis Obispo Valley and Paso Robles groundwater basins. Small farms under 200 acres (and ranches of any size) in these basins are eligible for support with SGMA, irrigation, and well issues. Contact Jesse Trace ([jesse@caff.org](mailto:jesse@caff.org)) for more information. View the CAFF guide to groundwater in the Paso Robles Basin [HERE](#).

## **"Conservation on the Farm" Field Day**

**Feb. 3rd, 8:30AM - 3:00PM**

This event will provide practical skills, knowledge, and resources to help you navigate conservation practices on your farm, with a focus on organic production. Learn from extension specialists, technical assistance providers, and farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange about practices and tools to help you make informed decisions. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

# CONSERVATION ON THE FARM

# FIELD DAY

LEARN FROM EXTENSION SPECIALISTS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS,  
AND FARMER-TO-FARMER KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE ABOUT PRACTICES AND  
TOOLS TO HELP YOU MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS.



#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR:



## 3 FEB 2026

#### FIELD DAY DETAILS:

START FROM 08:30 AM - 03:00 PM  
LEFORT ORGANICS FARM, CRESTON, CA

#### REGISTER HERE



#### WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- GRANTS & INCENTIVES
- ORGANIC MARKETS
- BIODIVERSITY & CONSERVATION PRACTICES
- CLIMATE RESILIENCY

FIND MORE  
INFORMATION AT

OUR WEBSITE:  
ORGANIC.UCANR.EDU

**CONTACT:** MARIA OROZCO  
MDLOROZCORAMIREZ@UCANR.EDU  
(805) 781-5815

## Santa Barbara County

### Cachuma RCD is Hiring a Project Manager for Wildfire Resilience

The Cachuma RCD in Santa Barbara County is seeking a Project Manager for Wildfire Resilience. This position will provide wildfire-related technical assistance and oversee a variety of natural resources conservation. Learn more about the position [HERE](#).

## Share Feedback with Cachuma RCD

The Cachuma RCD is seeking feedback from farmers, ranchers, and other land managers in Santa Barbara County to help prioritize natural resource concerns and ensure that programs and resources reflect local needs and priorities. Click [HERE](#) to take the short survey.

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## Ventura County

### Agricultural Rain Damage Survey

The Ventura County Agriculture / Weights & Measures Department, along with the Farm Service Agency, is collecting data on the impact of December rainstorms on Ventura County farmers. If, during the month of December 2025, you suffered damage to your agricultural crops, structures, land, or equipment due to excessive rain, please complete the survey (available [HERE](#)) and return it to their office. After submitting the form, you can apply for aid from the Farm Service Agency [HERE](#).

### "Ask the Advisor" Sessions with UC Nursery and Floriculture Alliance

The University of California Nursery and Floriculture Alliance invites you to their monthly Ask the Advisor virtual event. This virtual workshop aims to address questions around a different topic each month. Previous topics include pH management, disease prevention, and active research updates. DPR credits and Spanish language sessions are occasionally provided. Check out their [website](#) to stay updated on their events.

### UCCE Hosts Climate Resilience Workshop

**Jan. 20th, 8:30AM - 2:30PM**

This full-day, multi-speaker workshop will cover climate trends and impacts on agriculture in southern California, including a panel discussion by growers of how their practices have been impacted by climate change. Both in-person and Zoom options are available, and lunch will be provided at the in-person gathering in Camarillo. Learn more and register [HERE](#).

You are invited to a free UC ANR workshop:

# Climate & Agriculture: Farming in a changing climate

Register here!

## SEE FULL PROGRAM BELOW

**When:** Tuesday January 20, 2026

**Time:** 8:30 am – 2:30 pm (*lunch will be provided*)

**Where:** Ventura County Community Foundation,  
4001 Mission Oaks Blvd, Suite A, Camarillo, CA

**For more information contact Julie Clark:**

jdclarkdeblasio@ucanr.edu



**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources



## Speakers



Dr. Daniel Swain



Dr. Tapan Pathak



Lilian Thaoxaochay

and more...



*Learn about climate trends, potential impacts on Ventura County crops and available resources*

*4.5 CCA CEU's pending*

## Fire Recovery Resources

### Fire Recovery Webinar from UCANR

This in-depth webinar provides landowners and ag operators with a variety of fire-related resources and topics, such as navigating agencies, seeding rangeland after a fire, smoke damage in orchards and vineyards, erosion risk and critical focus areas, and FSA wildfire assistance resources. Watch the webinar [here](#)

Fire Information and Resources from UC Cooperative Extension  
[Resources for San Luis Obispo County](#)  
[Resources for Santa Barbara County](#)

**Other Resources**

- Wildfire Recovery Resources from UCANR Fire Network - [here](#)
- UCANR worksheet on "Estimating the Cost of Replacing Forage Losses on Annual Rangeland" following a wildfire - [here](#)
- Wildfire Damage Report Form - agricultural operators in San Luis Obispo County are encouraged to report damage caused by the recent wildfires - [here](#)
- CDFA Disaster Relief Grant - California Underserved and Small Producers Program - [here](#)
- Overview of Farm Service Agency relief programs for ranchers, created by the California Rangeland Trust - [here](#)

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## Find Funding Opportunities with the Farmer Funding Database

The [Farmer Funding Database](#) is now available from the Central Coast Soil Hub! This document lists funding opportunities for farmers and ranchers on the Central Coast and will be updated periodically as new opportunities become available. Funding opportunities include project planning and implementation, infrastructure and equipment purchases, educational scholarships, and more.

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## We Want to Hear From You!

The Central Coast Soil Hub was created to serve the local agriculture community and to support resilient and sustainable agricultural operations. To do this well, we need to know what farmers and ranchers in the Central Coast *actually* want and need. We are conducting a survey to understand how we can best meet the needs of all agricultural producers on the Central Coast. This survey is anonymous, so please answer honestly.

[Take the Survey Here.](#)

Thank you for your participation and feedback!

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[Click here to view all of the flyers and resources referenced in this edition of the newsletter](#)

## Thank You For Reading

If you have suggestions for what to include in future editions of the newsletter, please reach out and let us know! If you would like to learn more about the Central Coast Soil Hub, [visit our webpage here](#). Thank you!

Questions? Email the Hub Coordinator, Joshua Kouri: [josh@coastalrcd.org](mailto:josh@coastalrcd.org)

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