



# Farmer Newsletter

A newsletter made especially for  
farmers in the Inland Empire!



## In this issue...

Learn about the Garden of Health in San Bernardino, see a recap of our farmer appreciation event, and see an overview of current funding opportunities!



## Garden of Health

1455 E 3rd St, San Bernardino, CA



"'Jardín de la Salud', Spanish for 'Garden of Health', is an initiative of the Loma Linda University Community-Academic Partners in Service (CAPS), part of the Institute for Community Partnerships (ICP), to provide wholesome produce and safe outdoor green spaces to the local underserved population." ([news.llu.edu](https://news.llu.edu))



"Our goal is to steward a green space that offers a natural escape for the community while providing a platform for our members to grow and harvest organic produce and flowers. We are dedicated to ensuring inclusivity, welcoming people of all backgrounds—irrespective of class, age, race, gender, sexual orientation, or physical ability. If someone is interested in the garden they would reach out to us, and we would set up a meeting to go over our mission, vision, values, and contract. We give priority to those who are within a 5-10 mile radius of the garden. The suggested annual donation is \$35 a year which includes the 10x20 ft plot and access to water." - **Rosalina Ramirez, Program Manager for Garden of Health**



"Personally it's my mission to establish as much well functioning and efficient local food production as possible. As an organization, the Garden of Health wants to produce as much food as they can and make sure that food is going toward the promotion of public health." - **Kevin Head, Farmer for Garden of Health**



"IERCD supports our garden with any technical support. They have also supported us with various garden education pieces, workshops, and infrastructure. They have been a wonderful partner to work with. They have been essential to carrying out our vision at the garden. Thank you IERCD I hope for many more years of collaboration to come." - **Rosalina Ramirez, Program Manager for Garden of Health**



"By fostering a community committed to sustainable land use in an urban environment, our mission is to promote holistic community health encompassing physical, emotional, relational, mental, environmental, and spiritual wellness." - **Rosalina Ramirez, Program Manager for Garden of Health**



In honor of National Farmers Day, IERCD hosted a farmer gathering on October 12 to celebrate and thank our local farmers and farmworkers who labor to put food on our tables. It was our second year planning this celebration and hosting it at a local strawberry producer's farm.



Our goal for the event was to honor the hard work our growers perform year-round and to connect them with resources to support their operations. We accomplished that by providing an opportunity to review our CUSP Round 1 Funding application process, answer questions, and assist them with filling out grant applications for drought relief funds.



## Farmer Appreciation Event 2023



Approximately 35 farmers from San Bernardino, Riverside, and even LA County joined us for the event, where we provided free food, giveaways, and grant enrollment support. Partners from NRCS, UCR, UCANR, and the County Public Health Department also joined us to connect with the producers and share information on resources and services available to farmers or farmworkers.



Overall, the event was a big success! The farmers enjoyed connecting with old friends and new acquaintances while engaging with us and our partners about available assistance programs and agricultural resources.

## OPEN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS!

### CUSP Drought-Relief Funding:

- With the ongoing drought crisis in California, farmers face increased costs ranging from higher water and energy bills, to installing new equipment. This is especially difficult for smaller farms, and socially-disadvantaged farmers & ranchers (SDFRs). Starting in fall 2023, IERCD has reimbursement funding available through the **CDFA CUSP Program** for agricultural and working lands within California impacted by the drought. IERCD is offering direct **drought relief grants to eligible socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFRs)** who have experienced losses due to the drought. The covered expenses and eligibility requirements are listed on the IERCD CUSP Program page. **Award amounts range from \$2,500 to \$20,000 per farmer.** Our second round of applications opens **January 1st**. Application support is available at no cost. Farmers interested in more information regarding their eligibility for drought relief funds can contact us at [CUSP@iercd.org](mailto:CUSP@iercd.org). or visit [www.iercd.org/cusp-program](http://www.iercd.org/cusp-program)

### CA Small Agricultural Business Drought & Flood Relief Grant Program:

- Working to support communities impacted by extreme weather, a new grant program is now available to small agricultural businesses affected by recent drought and floods. **The California Small Agricultural Business Drought & Flood Relief Grant Program will provide relief to small agricultural businesses** that experienced a decline in annual gross receipts or gross profits due to drought or storm flood conditions. **The Application window for Drought Group 1, Drought Group 2, and Flood/Winter Storm Group 1 has been extended to January 15, 2024.** The program will ultimately award up to \$95 million in drought and flood relief grants to eligible small agricultural businesses to cover part of the costs incurred from **California's extreme drought from 2019 to 2022, and the 2023 storm flooding impacts.** The California Small Agricultural Business Drought & Flood Relief Grant Program is administered by the California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA). Please check the California Small Agricultural Business Drought & Flood Relief Grant's website ([cadroughtfloodrelief.com](http://cadroughtfloodrelief.com)) for eligibility information and reach out to the UCANR Technical Assistance contact listed below if you have any questions or need assistance applying. **Hung Doan, UCANR, Small Farms and Specialty Crops Advisor** [hkdoan@ucanr.edu](mailto:hkdoan@ucanr.edu), (951) 455-5726 (English and Vietnamese Technical Assistance)

### Fund-A-Farmer Grants:

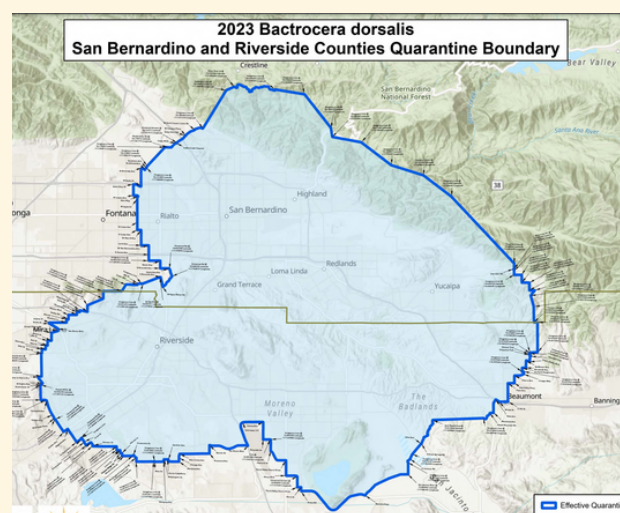
- Since 2012, **Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)** has awarded 608 grants to farmers across the country totaling over \$1,110,000 to improve farm animal welfare, expand humane farming, and support capital and operational work done on dozens of farms. **FACT awards competitive grants of up to \$3,000** to working, independent farmers located in the 50 United States and five major U.S. territories who raise beef cattle, bison, broiler chickens, dairy cows, ducks, geese, goats, laying hens, pigs, sheep and/or turkeys. The **2024 grant cycle opens November 1st. Applications must be submitted online by 11:59 pm ET on January 15, 2024** to be considered for this round of funding. Grants will be awarded in March 2024. Please check the FACT Fund-A-Farmer Grant website to review the grant application guidelines and eligibility requirements, and to submit your online application. [www.foodanimalconcernstrust.org/grants](http://www.foodanimalconcernstrust.org/grants)



# NEWS & UPDATES

## Oriental Fruit Fly

- Portions of **San Bernardino and Riverside Counties** have been placed under quarantine following the detection of multiple Oriental Fruit Flies, an invasive pest wreaking havoc on Inland Empire growers.
- The **adult Oriental Fruit Fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*) is slightly larger than a housefly** and is very colorful, with a yellow-striped abdomen and yellowish legs. The white maggots can be found burrowing through fruit. Infested fruit does not always look damaged from the outside but may take on a brown, mottled appearance as the maggots feed. **These flies attack over 230 different fruit**, including apples, avocados, bananas, cucumbers, grapefruit, grapes, lemons, peaches, pears, plums, peppers, tomatoes, and walnuts. The female fly deposits 10 to 100 eggs under the skin of the fruit. Maggots hatch and tunnel through the pulp, turning it into a rotten mass.
- To prevent the spread of fruit flies via infested homegrown fruits and vegetables, residents and people moving through the fruit fly eradication area are urged **not to move any fruits or vegetables from their property**. Fruits and vegetables may be consumed or processed (i.e. juiced, frozen, cooked, or ground in the garbage disposal) at the property of origin. If they are not consumed or processed, **dispose of them by double-bagging** them in plastic bags and putting the bags in the garbage bin for collection.
- For more information about **quarantine boundaries, regulations, host plant lists** & more, visit: [www.cdffa.ca.gov/plant/off/regulation.html](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/plant/off/regulation.html)
- The **Master Gardeners of San Bernardino County** also recorded an informational webinar about Oriental Fruit fly linked here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3AfmxiLCMek](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3AfmxiLCMek)



# 2024 CALIFORNIA SMALL FARM CONFERENCE

February 25th - March 1st, 2024,



CELEBRATING  
**45 YEARS**  
OF COMMITMENT  
TO FAMILY FARMERS

- The 36th annual California Small Farm Conference, hosted by Community Alliance for Family Farmers is a week of learning, networking, inspiration and movement-building. **Check out more than 60 events, online and in-person**, for anyone who's involved in the small farm community from experienced growers to aspiring entrepreneurs, market managers to students of agriculture, local food activists to farm advisors. Following **four days of virtual programming**, join us in-person at any of our **ten gatherings around the state** where you'll mix and mingle with fellow conference attendees.



## THIS YEAR'S TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Small vineyard management, Strawberry production, Winter CSA's, Bookkeeping, Latinas in the food industry, E-commerce, The Farm Bill, Regenerative agriculture, Urban agriculture, Business planning, Cooperative tool access, Livestock & cropping systems, Equitable land stewardship, Selling to schools, Biological pest control, Market manager training, And so many more!
- **Including a full day Spanish language track!**
- **Register online at [casmallconference.sched.com](https://casmallconference.sched.com) (sliding scale admission.)**

