

Hello there,

Welcome to the Foothills Agriculture Newsletter! This bi-monthly newsletter will offer a centralized space for ag-focused events, resources, project and trial updates, and timely management considerations for farmers, ranchers, and landowners in Placer and Nevada Counties.

In our first issue you will find upcoming events, local resources, and an introduction to the team behind this collaborative effort!

Resources & Opportunities

- **Central Sierra Agriculture & Working Lands Workshop Survey:** we want to hear from Central Sierra farmers, ranchers, and working land managers! [Take our 5-min survey](#) to help shape local workshops, field days, and resources.
- **Diversified Vegetable & Fruit Tree Farmers:** UC Davis graduate student Star Beltman is seeking participants for her collaborative research project. Participants will receive compensation and will support with development of state policy and farm support programs. [Learn more](#).
- **Stone Fruit Growers:** Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) is launching a project on Sustainable Pest Management (SPM) in our region. For more information, [check out their flyer, website](#) or email Moet Takata at moet@caff.org.
- **Looking to improve wildlife habitat on your property?** U.S. Fish & Wildlife has a program for you! [Check out their flyer, website](#), or email Matt Hammam at Matt_Hammam@fws.gov or call him at (530) 889-2301.
- **Do you purchase untreated PCWA canal water?** You can be reimbursed for a water storage tank! [Learn more here](#).
- Placer RCD is offering a **FREE Ag Chipping Program** to Placer County farmers and ranchers. Learn more and submit your service request [here](#).

Upcoming Events



Farm/Ranch Irrigation & Water Systems 101
July 7th, 4:30 - 6:30pm

[Register Here](#)

113 Presley Way
Suite 2
Grass Valley CA



Integrated Pest Management Workshop
July 13th, 5:00 - 7:00pm

[Register Here](#)

Address available upon registration
Nevada County



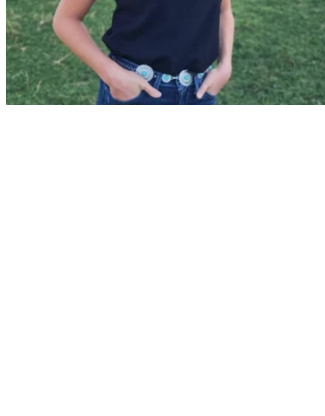
Farm/Ranch Irrigation & Water Systems 102
July 16th, 4:30 - 7:00pm

[Register Here](#)

Hopeful Hill Ranch
Address available upon registration

Grass Valley CA

Who We Are



Andrea Warner

UC Cooperative Extension

Andrea Warner is the Livestock and Natural Resources advisor for UC Cooperative Extension. She has been working with livestock producers in Placer, Nevada, Yuba, and Sutter counties for the past two years, hosting educational events and conducting field research to find practical solutions to regional production challenges. Andrea's research and extension program focuses on animal health, rangeland and irrigated pasture management, livestock nutrition, and profitability for cattle, sheep, and goat producers. She is passionate about connecting with local livestock producers and is available to chat with you about livestock production and pasture management. You can connect with Andrea via email at alnwarnar@ucanr.edu, by phone at (530) 889-7385, or on Facebook at "Foothill Livestock Network".



Ben Baldi

UC Cooperative Extension

Ben Baldi is the UC Cooperative Extension Horticulture and Small Farms Advisor serving both Placer and Nevada counties beginning this past March. He has experience in small-scale farming, Cooperative Extension, and international agriculture. Baldi works with established producers and beginning farmers in vegetables, orchards, vineyards, and specialty crop production. During the first year in this role, Ben is conducting a regional needs assessment to better understand local production challenges to identify priorities that will guide future research and extension programs tailored for our region.

Ben can assist with pest and disease issues, interpretation of soil and leaf tissue analyses, improving input efficiency, and troubleshooting other production challenges. He has initiated several pilot plots focused on soil health, cover crops, and integrated pest management. Growers interested in scheduling a needs assessment farm visit, collaborating on projects and research, or discussing production concerns are encouraged to contact Ben by email or phone.

Ben wants to hear from you to ensure his work remains regionally relevant, economically viable, and environmentally sustainable. He plans to implement a needs-based program and build partnerships with growers, agencies and community organizations, providing resources and localized management strategies. Connecting with him directly is the best way to share your highest priorities and help him understand our region's unique challenges. Ben can be reached via phone at 508-713-2330 or btbaldi@ucanr.edu and would love to hear from you.



Brian Pimentel

Placer RCD

Brian Pimentel serves as the Agriculture Program Manager for the Placer County Resource Conservation District (Placer RCD), where he works with farmers, ranchers, and partner organizations to advance conservation and strengthen agricultural resilience throughout the Central Sierra region. He joined Placer RCD in 2021 after completing an 11-month GrizzlyCorps Climate Fellowship and has since led the development and implementation of numerous conservation and technical assistance programs supporting working lands.

Brian earned a Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems from the University of California, Davis. His experience spans soil health, water conservation, habitat enhancement, regenerative agriculture, and conservation planning. He enjoys helping producers identify resource concerns, implement practical conservation solutions, and navigate state and federal financial assistance programs.

Passionate about building a more resilient local food system, Brian believes successful conservation begins with strong relationships and practical, farmer-focused solutions. He is committed to connecting producers with the resources, knowledge, and partnerships needed to improve the long-term sustainability of their operations.

If you are interested in receiving assistance, you can reach out to Brian via email. Brian@placerrcd.org.



Charlie McIntosh

Nevada County RCD

Charlie McIntosh is the Conservation Program Manager for Nevada County Resource Conservation District where he leads the [Advisory Visit Program](#) providing technical assistance directly to farmers, ranchers, and landowners to address resource concerns and management challenges on their land. He manages the RCD's conservation projects on agricultural lands and enjoys leading educational workshops that bridge the gap between introductory knowledge and advanced understanding.

Blending on-the-ground experience managing diversified farms in California and Idaho with a technical background in engineering, Charlie is equally at home fixing a leaky pond or irrigation system and discussing complex topics in soil science, hydrology, and biochemistry. He holds a degree in Chemical & Biological Engineering, is a graduate of the UC Santa Cruz Center for Agroecology's Ecological Horticulture Program and holds certifications as a Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) from Chico State, Technical Service Provider (TSP) and Associate with USDA-NRCS, and Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) with broad experience in soil health, water systems, biochar, crops, livestock, food safety, habitat enhancement, natural building, and permaculture.

Through his direct experience working on, managing, and developing organic, regenerative, and biodynamic farming operations, Charlie has hands-on experience implementing a wide variety of conservation practices, managing complex projects, and training new / beginning farmers.

Charlie encourages you to reach out (charlie.mcintosh@ncrcd.org, (530) 798-5533), [Request an AVP site-visit](#), or attend a workshop hosted by the Nevada County RCD. In this newsletter, he will be contributing to the Conservation Corner focused on the principles and practices of regenerative working lands.



Dara Noonan

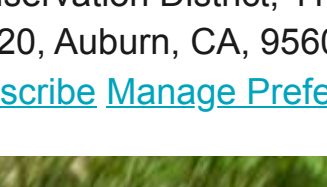
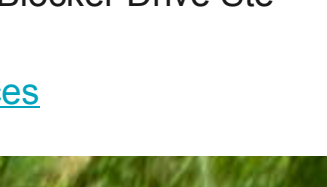
Placer RCD

Dara is the Agriculture Program Coordinator at the Placer RCD. Prior to joining the RCD, Dara worked a variety of outdoor and agriculture-related jobs, including working as a backcountry guide for a youth backpacking camp, working as an outdoor educator in various state and county parks, and work-trading on a goat and sheep dairy in Tuolumne County. Most recently, Dara completed her Masters of Science in Rangeland and Wildlife Management at UC Berkeley.

If you are interested in receiving assistance, you can reach out to Dara via email. Dara@placerrcd.org.

Thank you for reading!

The Foothills Agriculture Newsletter will be back in September with more events, resources, research findings, and management tips. Is there something else you'd like to hear from us? Email btbaldi@ucanr.edu.



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