

Local Programs & Resources

The Future of Farming and Ranching in the Sierra Foothills

Elisa Noble

Executive Director

Placer Resource Conservation District



Placer RCD Overview

- Non-regulatory State special district with a Board of local landowners
- Mission: conserve agriculture and natural resources in Placer County
- Established with Federal (USDA) and State (Dept. of Conservation) partners
- Coordinate with resources to strategically meet the ag and natural resource needs in the area



Placer RCD Assistance

- Target: rural landowners who are not commercial ag producers (\$1000 gross sales/year)
- Landowner Technical Assistance: irrigation efficiency, erosion control, wildlife habitat, fuels reduction, watershed health
- Workshops
- Chipper Program
- Information Delivery Approach



Irrigation Workshop – April 4th

- At a farm in Newcastle 9am-12pm
- See placercountyrwd.org for details
- Observe different irrigation systems
- Make your irrigation system as efficient as possible
 - Irrigation system evaluation
 - Irrigation water management scheduling
 - Crop water consumptive use

What about horses?

- Not typically considered agriculture
- Popular throughout foothills
- Impact natural resources
- Land and manure management needed
- We can help!



Horse Property Management Field Day

Saturday, March 15, 2014

9:00 am - 12 noon

Horse property 10 minutes from Auburn

Come learn about:

- Manure management
- Soil erosion control
- Water quality protection
- Paddock and pasture maintenance
- Chore efficiency
- Other tips for keeping your animals and acreage healthy

No charge.

Coffee and pastries provided.

RSVP:

www.placercountyrca.org or
e-mail marie.bankus@ca.nacdn.net

Questions:

Call Matt at (530) 885-3046, ext. 116

Hosted by:



**Placer County
Resource Conservation District**

Ag-Related Organizations & Resources

- UCCE Farm Advisors - Beginning Farmer Academy; many classes
- UCCE Master Gardeners
- Farm Bureau
- Cattlemen's, Mandarin Growers, other commodity groups
- County Ag Commissioner
- U.S. Department of Agriculture – NRCS, FSA, RMA
- For more details see:

<http://ucanr.edu/sites/placernevadasmallfarms/files/170704.pdf>

NRCS - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Cost-share funding (50%) available for practices that improve natural resources – examples:
 - Irrigation efficiency
 - Erosion control – cover crops, engineering
 - Wildlife habitat enhancement
 - Grazing management plan
- 2014 Farm Bill just passed – apply anytime
- Beginning farmers qualify for higher cost-share rate



Center for Land-Based Learning

- For Students: FARMS Leadership program, SLEWS Habitat Restoration, GreenCorps
- The California Farm Academy - training program and farm business incubator
- SLEWS Academy – natural resource management & youth education training



Farm on Putah Creek
Winters, CA

The Foothills' Changing Landscape

- We need all shapes, sizes, and types of farming and ranching
- Each plays a different role in feeding the world, conserving our natural resources, telling our story to the public, and supporting our economies & communities
- True for farmers, professionals, students, everyone!



Questions?



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