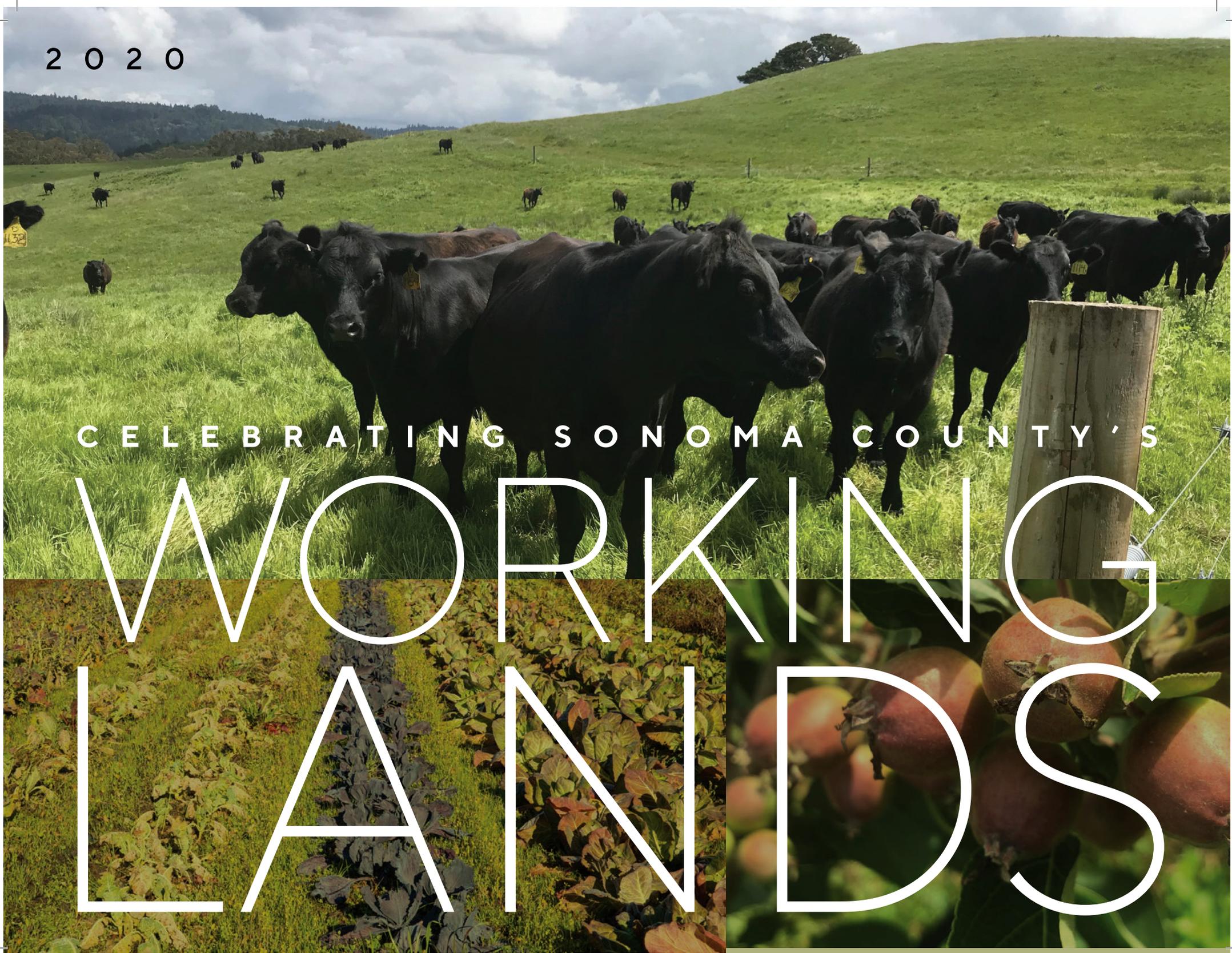


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C E L E B R A T I N G S O N O M A C O U N T Y ' S

W O R K I N G

L A N D S



WORKING LANDS FOR ALL

Sonoma county's heritage of agricultural diversity and stewardship is the direct result of multiple generations of our farmers and ranchers, and the local, state, and federal agricultural organizations that support them. Protecting our working lands is foundational to the economic vitality of our county and ensures the resources we rely on and enjoy are conserved for future generations.

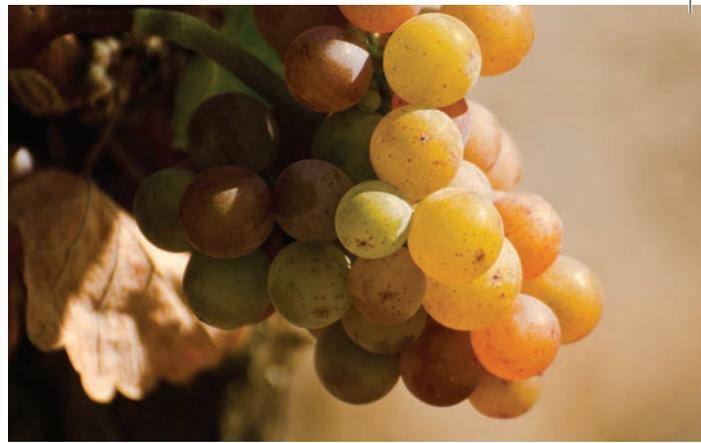
These same farmers, ranchers, and support organizations share the idea that carefully stewarding our natural resources – our soil, water, native plants and wildlife – will ensure that the land remains healthy, productive, and viable for continued agricultural use. Caring for the land benefits our natural and human communities while also benefitting the farmer's bottom line.

The contributors to this calendar are natural resource conservation organizations that support the vitality of local agriculture and the people who steward these lands.

The individuals, families, and groups highlighted in this calendar are some of our region's many leaders in farming, ranching, and natural resource conservation. We are honored to partner with the many innovative stewards of the land who help to preserve the beauty and bounty of Sonoma County.



The 2018 Crop Report documented that Sonoma County's agricultural economy has a total economic impact of \$1.106 billion. This was the first time in history that the gross value of agricultural commodities produced in Sonoma County has exceeded one billion dollars.



CONTRIBUTORS

SONOMA COUNTY AG + OPEN SPACE

sonomaopenspace.org

Sonoma County Ag + Open Space is a special district that permanently protects the diverse agricultural, natural resource and scenic open space lands of Sonoma County for future generations. Funded by a quarter-cent sales tax approved by voters in 1990 and reauthorized in 2006, the District protects and stewards over 117,000 acres of land throughout the region.

SONOMA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

sonomarcld.org

For over 70 years, the Sonoma RCD's mission has been to empower and partner with landowners and the community to address Sonoma County's most pressing natural resource concerns.

GOLD RIDGE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

goldridgercd.org

The Gold Ridge RCD has been partnering with agricultural and rural landowners in western Sonoma County to conserve our shared natural resources since 1941.

SONOMA LAND TRUST

sonomalandtrust.org

Sonoma Land Trust believes land is the foundation of our economy and our community's health and well-being. Since 1976, Sonoma Land Trust has protected more than 50,000 acres of scenic, natural, agricultural and open land for future generations, and is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

cesonoma.ucanr.edu

In Sonoma County, the UC Cooperative Extension academic staff is at the forefront of change, working to preserve agriculture, helping communities shape wise public policy, and strengthening community development and leadership in our youth and adults.

USDA-NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ca/home

NRCS helps America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners conserve the nation's soil, water, air and other natural resources. All programs are voluntary and offer science-based solutions that benefit both the landowner and the environment.

The bottom of each calendar page notes which of the above organizations have partnered with the showcased property.

Photography provided by above organizations, selected landowners, and individual contributions provided by the following: Christie Edwards, Christine Kuehn, Corby Hines, Jason Wells, and vineyard photos by Mike Pucci of Sangiacomo Family Vineyards.

CLOUDY BEND RANCH

Cloudy Bend is located along Lakeville Highway on the eastern bank of the Petaluma River. The property is operated as a sheep ranch but also produces hay and silage for livestock feed. Craig Jacobsen (left) and current president Brian Gilardi (right) have worked together to ensure that the land remains in agriculture for future generations.

“Today, my grandchildren are learning the importance of stewardship of our land, soil, water and natural resources. As the next generation emerges, I am truly grateful to share my passion and pass on a vibrant and healthy farming legacy.”

— Craig Jacobsen
Former President and Rancher

SUCCESSION PLANNING

The average age of a Sonoma County farmer is 60 years old. In total, there are 589,771 acres being farmed. Succession planning is essential to the process of passing an agricultural operation on to the next generation and ensuring the property continues to be farmed into the future.

367 ACRES | SHEEP AND DRY LAND FARMING
AG + OPEN SPACE • NRCS • SLT • SONOMA RCD • UCCE



“The land has enabled me to fulfill my passion of growing crops and raising livestock, while providing a rich and rewarding life for my family.”

January 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Beretta Family Dairy

Farming in the laguna takes careful stewardship and innovation. Collaborating with watershed stakeholders to protect endangered species such as California tiger salamander and Sebastopol Meadowfoam, while protecting water resources, has inspired the Beretta Family Dairy to educate fellow producers on these issues, as well as open their doors to the local community to demystify agriculture.

“We were always taught that you milked as many cows as the land could handle. Seeing how hard my grandfather and father worked to keep this land viable creates an obligation to be innovative in keeping the land productive. This has kept our farm what it is today.”

— Doug Beretta,
Owner and Farmer, Beretta Family Dairy

WATERSHED STEWARDS

Over the years the dairy avoided the need for groundwater pumping by being one of the first producers in the area to accept the City of Santa Rosa’s recycled water for irrigation. Forty years of using recycled water to irrigate pastures means forty years not pumping from the aquifer.

400 ACRES | ORGANIC DAIRY
NRCS • SONOMA RCD • UCCE



Several of Sonoma County’s most economically important aquifers lie beneath the Santa Rosa Plain. Our working lands have the ability to support the recharge of groundwater that keeps these aquifers healthy.



February 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 <small>Presidents' Day</small>	25	26	27	28	29
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Bay Hill Ranch

Bay Hill Ranch is perched on the hills above Bodega Bay in a watershed that supports steelhead and drains into the bay at Cheney Gulch. The ranch was farmed and heavily grazed by sheep for 150 years. Owners Jonathan and Misty Gay have been caring for the ranch since 2015, working to improve the vegetation, soils, and health of the creeks.

“We use ranching to restore our network of relationships with nature, land, and soil. It is our hope that our stewardship will increase the health and diversity of native plants, insects, frogs, birds, and badgers here on the ranch.”

— Jonathan and Misty Gay

Owners and Ranchers, Freestone Ranch

RESTORATION RANCHING

Restoring the land with native plantings, improving the health of the soil to capture more carbon, and enhancing the tributaries that support steelhead provide an example to our community of increasing biodiversity with careful stewardship of agricultural lands.

553 ACRES | GRASS FED BEEF
GOLD RIDGE RCD • NRCS



A recent study completed in Sonoma County estimated that the ecosystem values provided by grasslands, including carbon sequestration, water quality and supply, pollination, biological control, and habitat, total up to \$2.4 billion per year.



March 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Apple Bottom Farm

This certified organic farm is located north of Sebastopol in the Atascadero/Green Valley watershed. The combination of Goldridge sandy loam soils – the remnants of ancient seabed – and the coastal influence make this an ideal locale for growing fruit with complex flavors.

“We believe great cider making starts in the orchard. Utilizing regenerative agriculture practices gives way to crafting distinctive ciders that convey fresh fruit complexity, balance, and a true taste of place.”

– Ned Lawton
Owner and Cidermaker, Ethic Ciders

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

The 2018 Sonoma County Crop Report stated that apple production earned a total of \$3,667,100 from 2,166 acres, which includes both fresh apples and processed fruit (canned, juice, vinegar, and cider). In Sonoma County, apples for processing make up about 95% of the market.

5 ACRES | CIDER APPLES
GOLD RIDGE RCD • NRCS • UCCE



The farm is a testbed for regenerative agriculture, exploring strategies that both heal the land and increase the quality of the yields.



April 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Falletti Ranch

Formerly a working farm owned by the Veronda family, this 4.37- Acre property was purchased in 2008 by the city of Cotati. A partnership with Sonoma County Ag + Open Space means the land is permanently protected from urban development. Farmster, a local nonprofit, stewards the land while engaging visitors in agricultural preservation, regeneration, and collaboration.

“We aim to honor the agricultural history of the Veronda-Falletti Ranch, as well as demonstrate core values of family, tradition, and preservation.”

— Dustin DeMatteo
Manager, Farmster

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

With a demand to feed a rapidly increasing population locally and nationwide, the agriculture industry needs talented and passionate youth to become interested in agriculture. By engaging children and adults in local agriculture, farmers help build community, educate the next generation, and increase the health of our future food systems.

4.37 ACRES | COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING
AG + OPEN SPACE • SONOMA RCD



“Our mission is to grow food and farm skills while preserving the history on-site. It’s a live operation – that’s one of the most rewarding aspects of it – it is a very real project. People know it and want to participate in it and want their kids to have some exposure.”



May 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Duckworth Family Farm

Bought in 2002, this Sebastopol farm is CCOF-Certified Organic and produces blueberries, sheep's milk, sheep's wool, and hay. Part of a regional fibershed, the wool produced on the farm comes from five breeds of sheep, giving it a variety of textures and natural colors. These fibers are spun by spindle and woven by loom.

"We grow a number of organic blueberry cultivars and are now enthusiastically opening our doors during harvest season to invite our community to enjoy a taste of this Sonoma County agricultural lifestyle. It's our way of giving back to the voters who helped preserve this land. Our farm is created by everyone who comes. It's made up of the hard work and dreams of many."

— Lorri Duckworth
Owner, Duckworth Family Farm

DIVERSE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Demand for organic continues to drive agricultural practitioners to seek certification and in general Sonoma County agricultural practitioners are aware of and employ concepts of sustainability and regenerative agricultural practices in their businesses.

82 ACRES | BLUEBERRIES, WOOL, HAY
AG + OPEN SPACE • GOLD RIDGE RCD



"THE PATH TO TEACH AGRICULTURE TO A CHILD IS EXACTLY THE LENGTH OF THEIR OWN ARM".



June 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Open Field Farm

With an understanding of the balance that exists in nature, Open Field Farm strives to operate a productive farm that serves the needs of the community for food, fosters a positive relationship between the farmers, the members and the land, and continues to improve the farm ecosystem.

“Most importantly this land has offered us and our family an opportunity to bring our community together to share in the risk and reward of participating in agriculture and the production of healthy food from our agricultural lands.”

— Sarah and Seth James
Owners and Farmers, Open Field Farm

BIODYNAMIC AGRICULTURE

Pollinators are vital to the success of our food systems as they provide pollination services to our crops. Each year, bees, butterflies, and other pollinators contribute more than \$360 million in value to Sonoma County.

560 ACRES | ROW CROPS, GRASS-FED BEEF & LAMB,
EGGS | AG + OPEN SPACE • SONOMA RCD



Open Field Farm is a diversified farm. They grow vegetables, strawberries, melons, wheat, flowers, herbs, dry corn, small grains, grass fed beef and lamb, and pastured eggs. Biodynamic principles guide this multifaceted sustainable operation.



July 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3	4 <small>Independence Day</small>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Taylor Mountain Regional Park & Open Space Preserve

Preserved by Ag + Open Space and transferred to Sonoma County Regional Parks, Taylor Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve relies on grazing to preserve local agriculture, as well as provide other benefits such as reducing the risk of fire, supporting native plants, and building resiliency to climate change.

“With iconic oak woodlands, grassy slopes, and intact riparian corridors, Taylor Mountain is a great example of how natural resources can coexist with agricultural activities, such as grazing.”

— Sonoma County Regional Parks

GRAZING ON PUBLIC LANDS

When the land remains undeveloped, the grasses and trees are able to sequester carbon from the atmosphere, oak woodlands and wetlands offer habitat for wildlife, birds, and amphibians, and visitors have the opportunity to explore this beautiful landscape.

1,100 ACRES | BEEF CATTLE, RECREATION
AG + OPEN SPACE • UCCE



Forming the backdrop to Santa Rosa, Taylor Mountain Regional Park & Open Space Preserve combines public recreation and agricultural activity on the urban edge. In fact, Taylor Mountain is one of many properties in Sonoma County that is actively grazed and open to the public for recreation. The park sees over 180,000 visitors per year.



August 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

Tierra Vegetables

Lee and Wayne James are a sister and brother farming team growing food on a 17-acre farm in Santa Rosa. In addition to growing diversified and unique market crops and some of the sweetest strawberries in the county for their CSA program, the two also specialize in a vast array of chilies and sweet peppers, dried beans, and dried corn varieties for popcorn, cornmeal and masa.

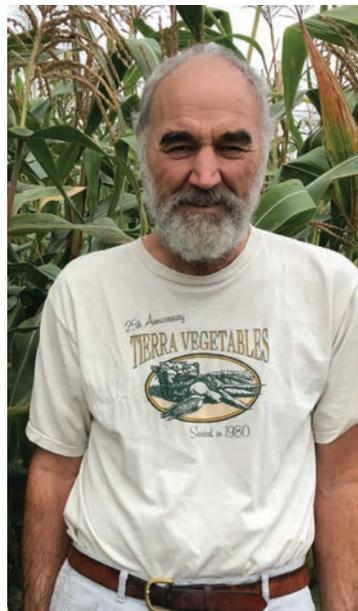
“When you come to Tierra Vegetables for the food that sustains you, we welcome that support as part of an investment in keeping the cycle of farming alive, allowing us to grow and harvest another season of abundance.”

— Wayne James
Owner and Farmer, Tierra Vegetables

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA)

Through Community-Supported Agriculture programs, or CSAs, farmers can form a closer relationship with customers who pay for shares of fresh, local food in advance. This direct connection to family farms allows consumers to be active participants in keeping agriculture alive, and gives farmers the opportunity to plan for the needs of their community.

**17 ACRES | DIVERSIFIED CROP PRODUCTION, CSA
AG + OPEN SPACE**



Tierra Vegetables provides local, organic produce where customers can come to the land to buy their food. Everyone who drives past is able to enjoy the beautiful barn and an agrarian landscape in the midst of urban life.



September 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Sangiacomo Family Vineyards

The land is a working resource. It helps maintain visual beauty, the rural traditions of our community, ecological diversity, and health of our environment, while having a positive economic impact to the community and industry. To be sustainable, farmers are dependent on a healthy and diverse environment.

“This land is the inspiration for our legacy. The opportunity to pass along the shepherding of this resource to future generations drives our passion. Our dedication to farming the land preserves the agricultural heritage of our family and our community.”

— Mike Sangiacomo
Sangiacomo Family Vineyards

FARMING SUSTAINABLY

The NRCS notes that improving soil health is key to long-term, sustainable agricultural production, stating that healthy soils rich with organic matter hold more water and recycle nutrients for plants to grow. One percent of organic matter in the top six inches of soil holds approximately 27,000 gallons of water per acre.

1,600 ACRES | WINEGRAPES
SONOMA RCD • NRCS • UCCE



“As grape farmers since 1927, the winegrapes we farm are harvested for over 65 winery brands in Sonoma County, each producing world-class wines that contribute to the overall reputation and success of our agricultural region.”

October 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Indigenous Peoples' Day Columbus Day	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Live Oaks Ranch

When Marie Rogers passed away, she bequeathed her stunning 572-acre ranch above Knights Valley to the Sonoma Land Trust. Located near Mount St. Helena in the Mayacamas range, Live Oaks Ranch serves as an important linkage between other protected properties in the region, providing safe passage and habitat connectivity for wildlife.

“Grazing is good for the land — it keeps plant life healthy. If you let it die, the underlying grass won’t grow. It’s good to knock out non-native weeds — now I’m finding flowers and flourishing grasses where the cows are instead of brush.”

— Rick Collins,
Collins CX Livestock

GRAZING FOR BIODIVERSITY

Grazing of non-native vegetation is essential to creating opportunities for many native grassland plants, as many threatened and endangered species need the disturbance of grazing to thrive.

572 ACRES | BEEF CATTLE
SONOMA LAND TRUST • SONOMA RCD



“I like being outside. I’ve ranched my whole life — I like nature’s adversities, waiting for the rain and waiting for the rain to quit. I like improving and grazing on older ranches and seeing them flourish — the plant life, wildlife and the economy.”

November 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Veterans Day	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3 Thanksgiving Day	4	5

Monan's Rill

Monan's Rill is a 440-acre property northeast of Santa Rosa where a community of individuals and families collectively own and manage the landscape for ecosystem health and resiliency. The land absorbs winter rainwater, releasing it via springs over the summer. Its forest, woodland, and chaparral serve as a carbon sink. The understory clearing preserves the native plants and trees, and makes the community more ecologically resilient and safe in the face of fire.

"It's where I have lived for the last 40 years. I feel a close attachment to the land, and I feel a duty to be a good steward of the land. In my retirement, that stewardship is one of my primary occupations."

— Rick Kavinsky,
Monan's Rill Association

RESILIENT FOREST AND WOODLANDS

According to CalFire, there are 31,488 homes in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) in Sonoma County. Using fuel treatments such as mechanical thinning or prescribed fire can change fire behavior and help to keep communities safer.

414 ACRES | FORESTLAND
NRCS • SONOMA RCD • UCCE



"Since 1980, we have cleared understory and thinned trees to create shaded fuel breaks, improved ranch roads to prevent erosion into Mark West Creek, installed a 60,000 gallon rainwater catchment tank, and completed a prescribed burn to reduce fuels".



December 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Christmas Day 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9



**Working together to protect agriculture, steward the land, and build community
...now and for future generations.**

