



Farmer Newsletter

A newsletter made especially for
farmers in the Inland Empire!



In this issue...

Meet Jesus Alvarado, a multi-generational farmer in Chino, California, learn how to get paid for on-farm conservation, and see upcoming events and opportunities!



Jesus Alvarado

Alvarado Farms Chino, CA



Meet Jesus Alvarado, a multi-generational farmer in Chino, California. Jesus grew up in a farming family and can recall eating fresh produce and non-processed food. He is proud to continue that legacy at his 15-acre family farm, Alvarado Farm, where he grows seasonal vegetables, such as celery, broccoli, chard, beet, kale, cilantro, and cauliflower. However, it all started with a treasured heart-shaped fruit – strawberries! Jesus' business goes back to 1994 when he planted his first strawberry field on his 15-acre site. Over the years, Jesus expanded his operation. He currently manages three farms in Chino, a total of 80 acres farmed. Strawberries continue to be his most consistent crop.



The days are long, and the work is hard. Don Alvarado doesn't just work until the sun goes down; he works until the job gets done. Fortunately, he has his family to support him. Don Jesus' brother helps with farming, and his wife and daughter oversee the sale of fresh produce to consumers at their family farm stand. If you are interested in supporting your local farmer, visit **Alvarado's Farm Stand at 6498 Edison Ave, Chino, CA 91710. (323)493-9923 (714)615-1680**

Alvarado's Farm Stand

6498 Edison Ave
Chino, CA 91710



To facilitate his work, Jesus also has access to resources, technical assistance, and funding opportunities through regional partners, including the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources. Jesus has been awarded two grants from the California Department of Food and Agriculture to relieve impacts from the drought and pandemic. He has also received two contracts from the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program to replace outdated tractors with new and cleaner burning equipment. Combining efficient farm tractor use with regenerative practices like composting and drip irrigation, Jesus is committed to feeding the soil and our community.



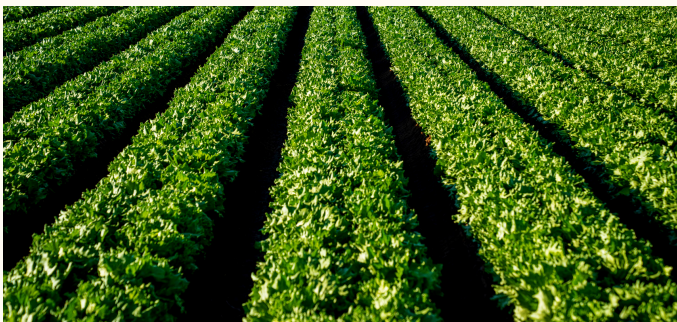


Get Paid for On-Farm Conservation

The USDA NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) provides funding and technical assistance to farmers for new and existing on-farm conservation practices. The program covers many climate-friendly ag practices, like cover crops, resource-conserving crop rotations, buffer strips, rotational grazing, and more.



CSP has funding set aside for farmers of color, veteran farmers, beginning farmers, and organic/transitioning farmers - so farmers in any of these groups may be more likely to have their applications funded. Also, the minimum annual payment is \$1,500/farm, even if you only have a few acres to enroll. (The maximum annual payment is \$40,000.)



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



Here's how it works:

1. Contact your NRCS office to ask about CSP and fill out the simple, 4-page application form. (You can also find the form online [here](#). Contact: Phuong Woolery Email: Phuong.Woolery2@usda.gov Office: (909) 283-7782 Cell: (661) 788-9339.
2. Note: To fill out the form, you will need a farm record number established with the Farm Service Agency (FSA). If you don't already have one, call your [local FSA office](#) to obtain a farm number. Submitting the application form is the only step that must be completed by the initial program deadline.
3. You will work with your NRCS agent using a computerized tool to analyze your farm's eligibility for CSP, based on your current management system and the natural resources on your land. There are stewardship threshold requirements to participate in CSP.
4. If you are eligible for the program, you will work with an NRCS conservation planner to create a conservation plan for your farm.
5. Your plan will be ranked against other requests for funding. If you score highly, you will be offered a contract (and funding).
6. You will work with NRCS to carry out your contract.

UPCOMING EVENTS

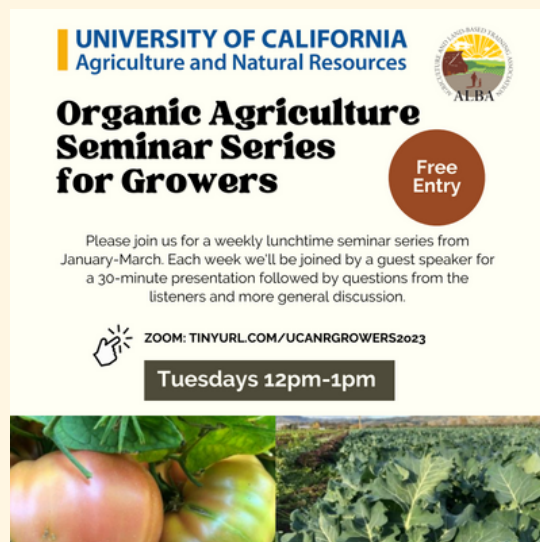
UCANR Growers Series

January 24 – March 21, 2023

Please join us for a weekly lunchtime Organic Agriculture Seminar Series for Growers from January-March. Each week we'll be joined by a guest speaker for a 30-minute presentation followed by questions from the listeners and more general discussion.

Tuesdays 12pm-1pm.

Zoom: tinyurl.com/ucanrgrowers2023



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources


Organic Agriculture Seminar Series for Growers

Free Entry

Please join us for a weekly lunchtime seminar series from January-March. Each week we'll be joined by a guest speaker for a 30-minute presentation followed by questions from the listeners and more general discussion.

ZOOM: [TINYURL.COM/UCANRGROWERS2023](https://tinyurl.com/ucanrgrowers2023)

Tuesdays 12pm-1pm



Grow Riverside

March 30 & 31, 2023

The Riverside Food Systems Alliance (RFSA) and City of Riverside invite you to attend the 2023 GrowRIVERSIDE conference that will bring together new and seasoned local farmers, academia, and those passionate about food justice. The program will dive into topics that farmers face daily and will include urban farming; the business of farming; farm policy and community impact; and food system development. The conference will be held at the Grove Church Conference Center. Tickets and more info at growriv.com



National Ag Week

March 21-27, 2023

Celebrate National Ag Week by supporting local farm businesses and spreading awareness to members of your community about the importance of sustainable and local agriculture!



OPPORTUNITIES

Monarch and Pollinator Habitat Kit

2023 California Kit Program Applications February 21 - April 3

Xerces Society is Now Accepting Monarch and Pollinator Habitat Kit Project Proposal Applications!

Kits are intended to be used to create or enhance monarch and pollinator habitat on working lands, public lands, tribal lands and private/non-working lands recovering from wildfires, with landowner or land manager collaboration. This includes farms, ranches, tribal land, post-wildfire recovery areas, urban farms or gardens, city parks, school gardens or other public areas. The kits are not intended to be used in home gardens. Kits are available for the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Sierra Nevada Foothills, Central Coast and Coastal Foothills, and Southern California. We encourage private landowners of working lands to partner with their local Resource Conservation District (RCD) or other technical liaison on their projects. NRCS and RCD staff may apply on behalf of partner land-managers, or land managers may apply directly. Past applicants or recipients of this program are welcome to re-apply. *Please note that you are responsible for picking up your kit(s) when ready in Oct/Nov.* Kit pick up locations in Southern California will be at the Temecula Olive Oil Company, Temecula, CA.



Hedgerow Kit: This kit contains 90 woody and herbaceous transplants including flowering shrubs and forbs, milkweed and native bunch grasses. Each kit will cover approximately 540 linear ft/ 5,400 ft² if planted on 6 ft spacing. Container sizes range from tree band to 1 gal. Minimum order of 1 kit / project. Additional kits can be requested for larger projects. Available for all regions.

Garden Kit: This kit contains 36 herbaceous transplants including milkweed, flowering forbs, and some grasses. Each kit will cover approximately 576 ft² when planted on 4 ft spacing. Container sizes range from tree band to 1 gal. Minimum order of 1 kit/ project. Additional kits can be requested for larger projects. Available for all regions.

More info at xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/habitat-kits/california

