



# Farmer Newsletter

A newsletter made especially for  
farmers in the Inland Empire!



## In this issue...

Meet our Farmer of the quarter,  
Don Rojo of Rojo Farms in Chino &  
learn about important agricultural  
news, financial assistance  
programs, & upcoming events!





# Pedro Rojo



Meet Pedro Rojo of Rojo Farms, a diversified row crop farm in Chino, California. He is a fourth generation farmer and has been farming in the Inland Empire since 1979.



Pedro is proud to be a part of the local food system and works with IERCD and NRCS to implement conservation practices such as high tunnel systems (hoop-house), which help control the growing conditions and optimize yield.

## Rojo Farms Chino, CA



Pedro is passionate about keeping the family farming tradition alive. He and his family work hard to grow a variety of seasonal fruits and vegetables on their 22-acre farm.



Federal, State, Local News &amp; Funding Opportunities!

# AG NEWS

## Federal and State Bills Related to Agriculture

Governor Newsom and legislative leaders finalized a set of budget bills that built upon last year's multi-year funding proposals for Climate Smart Agriculture. Existing programs saw significant boosts in state funding in the budget package, including the Healthy Soils Program, Pollinator Habitat Program, Drought Relief for Underserved Farmers, and Farm-to-School. One significant new area of funding that advanced was organic transition technical assistance. The budget package included \$5 million for a new technical assistance pilot program for farmers transitioning to organic agriculture production.



The federal Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 would, among other things, provide approximately \$369.75 billion for energy security and climate change programs over the next ten years. The bill will help ensure farmers, ranchers, and foresters are best prepared to deal with extreme weather events caused by climate change that increasingly threaten their livelihoods, & the stability of our food supply. On August 16, 2022, the bill was signed into law by President Joe Biden.



## Open Financial Assistance Programs!

### USDA Accepting Applications to Help Cover Costs of Organic, Transitioning Producers (DUE 10/31/22)

- Apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP) and Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP), which help producers and handlers cover the cost of organic certification. Contact the Farm Service Agency (FSA) at their local USDA Service Center. Additional details can be found on the OTECP and OCCSP webpages

### Conservation Reserve Program Transitions Incentives Program – Funding Opportunity (DUE 10/14/22)

- USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is investing \$10 million for agriculture-oriented taxpayer education as well as \$4.5 million in outreach for the Conservation Reserve Program's Transition Incentives Program (CRP TIP), which helps with access to land for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. FSA expects to award 15 to 20 partner and stakeholder organizations up to \$300,000 for outreach and technical assistance to promote awareness and understanding among agricultural communities, particularly those who are military veterans, new to farming and historically underserved.





# UPCOMING EVENTS






**CELEBRATE FARMERS**

NATIONAL FARMER'S DAY APPRECIATION EVENT

**20** **4-6 PM**

**OCTOBER** **THURSDAY**

FREE FOOD 🍌 GIVEAWAYS 🍌 PRESENTATIONS 🍌

LOCATION: 7050 Schaefer Ave, Chino, CA 91710  
 RSVP with Lucy Coja at: (909) 285-4754

## Latino Farmer Conference

November 17-18, 2022  
Escondido, CA

**REGISTER**

*Growing Together*

**ABOUT THE CONFERENCE**

NCAT y NRCS are proud to present the 8th annual statewide sustainable agriculture conference. All presentations will be in Spanish.

After two consecutive years of hosting this conference online, we are happy to be able to bring people together again in person. This year's conference has expanded to include two full days of education and networking. Day one will center around farm tours in the Escondido area; dDay two of the conference will include an exhibitor area, networking opportunities, and presentations on topics relating to conservation, organic, and regenerative agricultural production and business management.

<p><b>17 of Nov</b> (Space is limited)</p>  <p><b>2 LOCAL FARMS</b></p>  <p><b>FARM CHATS</b></p>  <p><b>PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE</b></p>	<p><b>18 of Nov</b></p>  <p><b>LECTURES</b></p>  <p><b>NETWORKING</b></p>  <p><b>THEORETICAL EXPERIENCE</b></p>
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[HTTPS://LATINOARMERCONFERENCE.NCAT.ORG/](https://latinoFarmerConference.NCAT.ORG/)
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