

California Small Farm Conference

March 10-12, 2013 - Radisson Hotel - Fresno, CA
www.californiafarmconference.com

Newsletter - September 2012



California Small Conference Scholarships Available!

The California Small Farm Conference scholarships provide recipients with limited resources the opportunity to attend and participate in the annual conference. Scholarships include:

- Conference registration
- Conference-hosted meals
- Sunday Tasting Reception
- Travel stipend and lodging (if applicable)

The networking and educational opportunities of the conference are priceless. Scholarship applications must be received no later than Monday, December 3, 2012. Applications received after December 3 will be placed on a waitlist.

[Download the scholarship application today!](#)

Submit all applications to: conference@californiafarmconference.com

Exhibitor & Sponsorship Opportunities

The California Small Conference attracts more than 400 attendees each year, where attendees turn to exhibitors and sponsors for information on products and services relevant to small scale farmers. Exhibiting at or sponsoring the 26th annual conference is an opportunity to reach new customers, farmers, market managers and advisors.

[Download the Exhibitor/Sponsorship Packet](#) for details about available opportunities.

Questions? Contact Simone Parker, CMP at simone@californiafarmconference.com to request additional information.

Call For Presentations

In an effort to ensure that the California Small Farm Conference remains relevant to you, the attendee, we are putting the program in your hands! We want to know what speakers, industry professionals and farmers you want to hear from.

The Call for Presentations Form is your opportunity to provide us the information about a potential conference session topic or speaker you'd like to see at the 2013 Small Farm Conference.

Please download and complete the [Call for Presentations Form](#) and get started today. Your input and feedback is greatly appreciated.

Questions? Contact us at conference@californiafarmconference.com.

Did you attend the 2012 California Small Farm Conference? If so, we'd like your feedback! Data gathered from this [short survey](#) will help in planning the 2013 conference.

Farm Bill Process

By Dave Runsten, Policy Director, CAFF

Where are we now in this Farm Bill process? The Senate passed a five-year Farm Bill. Then the House Agriculture Committee passed its own five-year Farm Bill. However, the House leadership has refused to hold a vote on the House Farm Bill. Instead, they passed a stand-alone

Farmers in the News

[No consensus from state panel on farmers market enforcement](#)

[The Conversation: Small farms harvest hope](#)

[Governor Signs AB 1616: Food Safety, Cottage Food Preparations](#)

[CDFA to Provide Food Safety Workshops for Small Farmers](#)

[UC Davis receives funding to create ag innovation center](#)

[State rail authority tackles ag questions](#)

[New generation of West Marin ranchers coming back to the family farm](#)

[Organic farm owner hopes voters will read up on Prop. 37](#)

[First time farming](#)

[Crucial time to treat citrus is approaching](#)

[Agriculture producers face a dropping supply of harvesters](#)

New Online Video Series Showcases California Farmers Successfully Adopting Conservation Agriculture Systems

*Previously appeared in the September 2012 USDA e-Newsletter

The Conservation Agriculture Systems Innovation (CASI) six-part video series has made its debut on the CASI website. Sponsored in part by NRCS, the 7-8 minute segments cover topics relevant to using conservation practices and systems

disaster assistance bill on August 2, to address the effects of the drought. The Senate then refused to pass a stand-alone disaster assistance bill because that was already in their comprehensive Farm Bill. And with that impasse, Congress adjourned for summer vacation.

[Continue Reading](#)

Value-Added Producer Grants

USDA Rural Development is now accepting applications for the Value-Added Producer Grant program (VAPG). The objective of the VAPG is to assist agriculture producers and farmers begin value-added activities such as feasibility studies, business plans, working capital for marketing value-added products, and farm-based renewable energy projects. Beginning farmers, socially-disadvantaged farmers or farms that are structured as a family farm may receive priority.

Application deadline: October 15, 2012

For more information, visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_VAPG.html or contact Karen Firestein at karen.firestein@ca.usda.gov or 530-792-5829.

USDA Directory Records More Than 7,800 Farmers Markets

**Previously appeared in the September 2012 USDA e-Newsletter*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Farmers Market Directory identifies 7,864 farmers markets operating throughout the United States, a 9.6 percent increase over last year. The directory identifies 7,864 farmers markets operating throughout the United States. The top states include California (with 827 farmers' markets reported), New York, Massachusetts, and Michigan. The information collected in the directory, hosted by the USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service, is self-reported data provided voluntarily by farmers market managers through an annual outreach effort. The USDA National Farmers Market Directory is available at farmersmarkets.usda.gov.

to save water, soil, and fuel and to reduce chemical inputs such as pesticides. Specific soil and water management practices showcased include conservation tillage, residue management, efficient irrigation systems, and more. California farmers and researchers share their positive experiences with using conservation agriculture systems on dryland grain, row crop, dairy silage, and grazing operations. The video introduces "a whole new way of doing agriculture," according to Will Horwath of UC Davis. Michael Crowell of Bar Vee Dairy explains why he's "hooked on no-till," and Fritz Durst has stopped "treating the soil like dirt."



Please update your address books with California Small Farm Conference's new contact information:

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