

Sierra Harvest

THE DIRT: FOR FOOD PROFESSIONALS

FARMERS & RANCHERS



The CA Department of Food and Agriculture will be releasing a Request for Applications (RFA) for the 2023 Farm-to-School Incubator Grant in Fall 2023.

This will be a great opportunity for farmers to receive up to \$150,000 in funds to help expand their operations.

Stay tuned for more information and details about a workshop that will help with the grant application process. Until then, you can review the 2022 grant details here:

[Learn More](#)

Spotlight on Pride



My name is Michael and I am the owner-operator of Ash Farms, a very small farm start-up operation located right here in Nevada County.

Growing up in the greater Sacramento area, I remember visiting Grass Valley as a kid and feeling drawn to the area and the agricultural lifestyle. It wasn't until my late 30s that I gathered the courage to put down roots of my own.

Having absolutely no ag experience, the path has had its challenges. I am thankful for Sierra Harvest and other members of my community for providing me with the education, tools, and resources I need to become successful.

I hope that as I learn and grow, my success will help to break industry barriers and pave a path for more LGBTQ+ farmers.

If you live in the Lake Wildwood Community and would like delivery of fresh eggs, seasonal fruits, vegetables, or fruit preserves, or would like to join our mailing list, email ash.michael@icloud.com.

A Fond Farewell



Miriam Limov has held many roles with us over the years, bringing incredible order to how we operate many of our programs, including Farm Institute, Gold Country Gleaning, and perhaps best known for taking our Volunteer Program to a new level. If you have the privilege of knowing Miriam Limov, you know she is a one-of-a-kind woman! Her infectious enthusiasm, heartfelt care, and fun-loving spirit will be greatly missed at Sierra Harvest as she moves into a well-deserved retirement this July. We wish her the best as she shifts her life to spend more time with family and friends on the trails, playing music, and being the best Bubbie Backpacker anyone has ever seen!

Thank you, Miriam, for all you have done to make our community a more colorful, positive, and healthier place to live!



Good News: Bear River High School Ag Mechanics team takes first in the state!

Bear River's Ag Mech Team placed first at the California FFA Agricultural Mechanics State Finals on May 7 at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo and will be advancing toward nationals in the fall.

[Read more here.](#)



FUNDING & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Level Up On Your Ag Skills!

This course explores agricultural best practices at work on commercial farms and ranches in the Nevada County region. Taught on farms and by farmers, this course gives beginning farmers hands-on opportunities to build skills, learn from veteran farmers, and strengthen peer networks.

Classes run **Tuesdays from 4 - 6 pm** and go until early September.

A taste of the next few classes:

June 27: Berry & Small Orchard Management

July 11: The Business of Bouquets

July 18: How to Start & Run a Farm Stand

[Register Today](#)



Organic Market Development Grant Applications are due August 8

Three project types, 24-month Simplified Equipment-Only with funding between \$10,000 and \$100,000. 3-year Market Development and Processing Capacity Expansion with funding ranging between \$100,000 and \$3,000,000.

[Click here](#) to learn more about this grant opportunity.



The Regenerator: A Year of Farm Succession Planning

This course is now open for applications! It is a comprehensive, year-long course with classes held monthly, in person, in the Sacramento area. This course is meant to support your ability to design and plan for the transfer of farm ownership and management.

California FarmLink is accepting applications on a rolling basis until **July 1**, and the course will begin in November. [Click here](#) to learn more and apply.



SURVEYS & RESOURCES



The Farm to Market Handbook: Quick tip guides for accessing five major marketing channels

This [Farm to Market Handbook](#) is designed to help the family farm access markets. It provides information, selling tips, and internet links to top informational sites for the five major marketing channels.

BUYERS

Sign Up For Farm Tours!

[Register today](#) to meet the hardworking farmers that produce a variety of fresh and seasonal food right here in Nevada County, witness first-hand how they farm and learn how you can purchase from them to deliver to your customers, residents or clients the freshest, tastiest food around!

Use Promo Code **LOVELOCAL** to get 2 free tickets for each farm tour this season.

[Sign Up](#)



Running a food business and want to put more local on the menu?

Interested in connecting with farmers to see what products they offer?

Check out the [Food & Farm Directory!](#)

We also help buyers get to know local farmers and provide training and support to get more local on the menu!

We work with institutions, restaurants, caterers, and others who want to source more seasonal, local food or plan cost-effective seasonal menus.

Contact miriam@sierraharvest.org for a list of local farmers, or to learn how we can help you meet your goals.



After months of strategic planning, the Nevada County Food Policy Council has selected ***farm-to-institution procurement*** as the ***key opportunity area*** for the coming years.

The Council also decided that it is a prime time to ***expand regionally***, and will be deciding which counties should be included in a regional Food Policy Council, then reaching out to individuals for intentional representation in membership.

If you would like to be involved please email lindsey@sierraharvest.org.



2023 Farm Bill

As both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees begin drafting their respective versions of the 2023 Farm Bill, both committees have an open form to collect public input.

Add your voice to the [Senate Agriculture Committee form](#).

Check this out:



[Procuring Food Justice: Grassroots Solutions for Reclaiming Public Supply Chains](#) offers advocates a new blueprint for leveraging a “values-based purchasing” strategy to challenge corporate control of public food and redirect billions of taxpayer dollars toward small producers, producers of color, and suppliers with fair labor practices.



[California Legislature Bills of Concern](#) to Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF). An excellent overview of bills in the legislature, with full text, fact sheets, and CAFF position in support or opposition.



HEAL Food Alliance has an **[excellent resource page](#)** on the 2023 Farm Bill, including policy priority goals, a Farm Bill explainer, as well as calls-to-action and ways you can help.

OPPORTUNITIES



USDA Sutter-Yuba City Farm Service Agency is Hiring a full-time Temporary County Office Program Technician. **To Apply:** Complete & sign Application Form [FSA 675](#) "Application for FSA County Employment." You may also submit a resume. **On a separate piece of paper with your application:** please describe your ability to communicate orally & in writing, identify & resolve problems; knowledge of FSA programs & practices; skill in using computers, including software you are proficient in; customer service skills with examples. You must include your country of Citizenship, education, and work experience.

- Contact Scott.Mahon@usda.gov (530)671-0850 ext. #2 to apply or for questions.



Looking to shake things up? Check out the jobs boards at caff.org and ecofarm.org for farm jobs, food systems work, internships, and land opportunities.



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