



SUMMER 2018

LEGACY



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*BUILDING A
BETTER WORLD*

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PROTECTING THE FARMS THAT FEED YOUR FAMILY

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Melanee Cottrill

In a recent workshop, I was asked to consider a disturbing question: what change in the world would make your job unnecessary? While I didn't relish the idea of not having a job, the question certainly provoked some deep thoughts. I came to the conclusion that, in a better world where my job isn't necessary, farmland is inherently appreciated. In that better world, people all recognize the farms that feed their family as valuable. In that better world, people respect the land that feeds them. And in that better world, people don't pave farmland.

That sounds like a pretty nice world to me (even if I am unemployed in it).

We are working to build that better world, with a lot of help from our friends featured in this issue. One classroom at a time, we are showing the next generation that farmland is special, that farmland is precious, and that the best farmland must remain farmland, forever. Getting to spend the day outside at Steamboat Acres or First Generation Farmers, and then taking a look behind-the-scenes at Raley's super market, is an experience kids won't forget.



awe quite like that on fourth-grade faces when they ponder the age of the pear trees (125+ years) planted by Farmer Michael's great-great grandfather at Steamboat Acres. There is no sound quite like the question and answer routine that plays out at First Generation Farmers, with the prompt "why do we have worms in our compost?" eliciting either embarrassed or exuberant (there is no in between with fourth graders) responses of "poop!"

We are lucky to be able to provide an experience that we think... we hope...will change the way these kids (most of whom have never set foot on a farm) see the world. They are our path to that better world where my job isn't necessary. And we are thankful to everyone who makes it possible – Raley's for providing funding and tours, Steamboat Acres and First Generation Farmers for hosting, and especially you, our loyal supporters without whom we wouldn't be working toward that better world.

"EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD."

– Nelson Mandela

Listening to the kids ask questions and engage with our farmers is one of the most rewarding aspects of my job. There is no



OUR MISSION

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BIG DAY OF GIVING – THANK YOU!



We did it, together! Our total BDOG gifts exceeded our goal of \$20,000 - \$21,230 to be exact! We cannot thank all of our generous donors and friends enough for the dedication and support to our mission while we protect the farms that feed your family! To capture all the fun from the day please visit one of our social channels – Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter!

ACCREDITATION RENEWAL NOTICE

Land Trust Alliance



The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The California Farmland Trust is pleased to announce it is applying for renewal of our accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs. The accreditation process helps ensure that the California Farmland Trust operates with current best practices and is well-positioned to steward the easements it holds in perpetuity.

We are excited to announce we are applying for accreditation renewal. Accreditation ensures we operate with best practices

and are well-positioned to steward our easements in perpetuity. A public comment period is now open.

“ACCREDITATION ENSURES WE OPERATE WITH BEST PRACTICES AND ARE WELL-POSITIONED TO STEWARD OUR EASEMENTS IN PERPETUITY.”

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. You may also visit our website: www.cafarmtrust.org/accreditation-notice.

Comments on California Farmland Trust's application will be most useful by December 15, 2018.

STEAMBOAT ACRES: PRESERVING THE ART OF FARMING, ONE GENERATION AT A TIME

Blake Kaiser-Lack



“Our family believes that agriculture and the preservation of the ‘art of farming’ must be protected for the sustainability of all persons.” Michael Neuharth, his wife Tara, and even their toddler Raylan, embody this message every day at their beautiful farm Steamboat Acres, nestled between the Sacramento River and Steamboat Slough near Courtland.

“OUR FAMILY BELIEVES THAT AGRICULTURE AND THE PRESERVATION OF THE ‘ART OF FARMING’ MUST BE PROTECTED...”

Through a continuing partnership with our Field Trips on the Farm initiative and sponsorship by Raley’s, Steamboat Acres has played an active role in ensuring future generations understand the importance of farming by hosting four field trips to their farm for local elementary school students last year, with four more planned for next school year.

Coming from a rich history of agriculture, Michael and Tara are the sixth generation of over a century and a half of farmers, dating back to 1848 when the Peck family purchased some of the first farming land in the soil-rich Delta. Michael is inheriting this tradition from his father Tim, who worked hard to sustain their farmland for years.

Centered at the “Bartlett Pear Capital of the World,” the Neuharth family grows three varieties of pears on hundred-year-old trees alongside cherries, pumpkins, grapes, and small grains. You can find them selling their produce to the community at events like Courtland Pear Fair and Passport Weekend, and at their roadside fruit stand.

Recently, Steamboat Acres has moved into agri-tourism to preserve the history of their family farm and relay the importance of agriculture to the community. While the field trip program is one such opportunity, their annual “Pumpkins in the Pears” pumpkin patch also allows community members to try the farm’s local organic pumpkin, squash, and corn and gain a better insight into the importance of supporting local farms.

“It is our hope that kids leave Steamboat Acres with more knowledge and excitement surrounding agriculture. After all, they rely on farmers at least three times a day... every day!”

FIRST GENERATION FARMERS: A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

Amanda Jimenez



Education is essential in meeting the goal of conserving the land we have, in hopes of achieving food security for future generations. With this goal in mind, CFT with sponsorship from Raley's, has partnered with First Generation Farmers (FGF) to host educational field trips on their farm. First Generation Farmer's Mission Statement describes a vision of sustainability of soil and land health, educating the youth about farming practices, and working on issues of food access. This organization has committed to working towards providing skills to aspiring farmers to grow food for the next generation.

The founder, Alli Cecchini, sees herself in this mission. In her early 20s, she convinced her parents to let her convert some of their farmland into a diversified organic production. With mentorship from her parents and her modern insights on a younger generation of producers, Alli created FGF. She set out to renew connections between farmers, people, and the food system of which we are all a part.

Engagement with the public is an essential role to the success of FGF; through after school programs, summer camps, farm tours, and the World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) Program, this organization proudly invites hundreds of people to the farm each year. FGF has found that people of different ages and cultures are always eager to get their hands dirty in the process of discovering the joy of farm life, such as, composting or collecting eggs, honey and fresh seasonal vegetables.

Field trips to FGF allow students to rotate through nine stations, each station is designed for small groups of students to have a hands-on experience with common lessons about farm life. FGF also applies a "Take what you need, pay what you can" model to its farm stand and farmers markets, that engages people in the conversation about food access and supporting small-scale farms that strive to be stewards of the farm land. Last year, Raley's sponsored three field trips on the FGF campus and this year it will sponsor another four trips for children in the fourth-grade age group. We are very excited to share these enriching experiences with our community and look forward to continuing this partnership.



FRIENDS OF FARMLAND EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Friends of Farmland Visit Hilmar Cheese



Bacon, eggs, and coffee were a great start to our Friends of Farmland event at Hilmar Cheese Company. Our friends and supporters enjoyed breakfast and good conversation, followed by an interesting tour of the Hilmar Cheese facility.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Ron Freitas



As I assume the office of President, I am excited about the direction the CFT is moving, humbled by the work of previous Presidents, and awed by the dedication and hard work of our staff.

The last two years have been a watershed period for the CFT. We completed the recruitment and hiring of the new Executive Director, Charlotte Mitchell, who brings with her a vast knowledge of the agricultural landscape in California, first hand agricultural experience, and a great deal of enthusiasm. Additionally, we completed the merger with the Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust in Contra Costa County which was the largest project ever taken on by CVFT and resulted in our name change to California Farmland Trust. We soon will

Westside Winery Tour & Lunch



On Friday, May 18 Friends of Farmland visited the beautiful Trinchero Family Estates Westside Winery in Lodi for an exclusive behind the scenes tour and luncheon (home to Sutter Home, Menage a Trois, and more). This special event was limited to only 30 and it filled up fast!

be closing three new easements in Madera County as well as other easements in Merced and San Joaquin Counties. We also will proudly celebrate our 15th anniversary of conserving the best farmland in the world in 2019!

**“WE MUST NOW FOCUS ON THE FUTURE
IF WE WANT TO CONTINUE OUR
SUCCESS AND SUSTAIN OUR GROWTH”**

While it is nice to look back at how we have grown and evolved into one of the premier farmland trusts in the U.S., we must now focus on the future if we want to continue our success and sustain our growth. It will take a concerted effort by all to reach our goal of “20,000 (acres) by 2020.” To that end, we have partnered with Raley’s to educate hundreds of school children on the origin of the food they eat and the value of our unique farmland. Also, we are increasing our social media exposure and receiving help and funds from various state and federal agencies. In looking ahead, I am very excited about our future. The biggest challenge we face is funding our future projects as we have more applications for preserving acreage than we have money. We are actively seeking new partners and sponsors to further our efforts. Please consider joining us in our fight to preserve farmland!

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Raley's



Raley's is a privately-owned and family-operated customer experience grocery company headquartered in West Sacramento, CA. Raley's stores are the destination for the best fresh products, affordable offerings and personalized service. The

company's commitment to infusing life with health and happiness by changing the way the world eats, one plate at a time, has made it a trusted source for food, nutrition, and wellness. Raley's strives to enhance transparency and education in the food system in order to help customers make more informed, healthy food choices.

Through strategic community partnerships, Raley's supports organizations that are creating and sustaining a healthy food system. Raley's works with non-profits to bolster career pathways in agriculture food production and food service. Raley's operates 129 stores under five banners: Raley's, Bel Air Markets, Nob Hill Foods, Food Source, and Market 5-ONE-5. Making healthier offerings accessible to everyone, Raley's has expanded beyond the store to operate grocery curbside pick-up and delivery in their nearby communities.

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* Meisner Farm (161 acres), first project completed in Madera County!

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