

The Partnership Newsletter

January/February 2008



CONSERVATION
PARTNERSHIP

A C R C D • N R C S

January/February 2008



CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

Issue 2

Do you know where your food comes from?



Celebrate Ag Week
March 16—22, 2008

Join the celebration

American agriculture is responsible for providing the necessities of everyday life ... food, fiber, horticulture, renewable resources and even

fuel. That's the message of National Ag Day, which is celebrated March 20, 2008. Producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture on this first day of spring. The National Ag Day program is committed to increasing public awareness about American agriculture. As the world population soars, there is

even greater demand for agriculture that the United States produces.

The Agriculture Council of America, organizers of National Ag Day, believe that

every American should understand how agriculture and renewable resource products are produced and should value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy and healthy population. They should appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products. National Ag Day will focus on educating Americans about the industry, so they may also acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture industry.

Focused on sharing how agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis, the National Ag Day program helps educate millions of consumers (continued on page 2)

Alameda County Partnership for Land Conservation And Stewardship (PLCS)

There are so many different agencies in Alameda County, that it can be very difficult to figure out which one does what. The Alameda County Partnership for Land Conservation and Stewardship (PLCS) is one of those agencies.

PLCS is administered for the

County of Alameda by the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD). PLCS currently has 18 individual landowners in the Conservation Mitigation Program (CMP) with the intent to determine their properties' conservation values and to seek mitigation or other easements. These

landowners represent 17,000+ acres of rangeland in East Alameda County. The CMP is a program of the NRCS, RCD and PLCS, which utilizes their individual expertise to benefit the clients.

If you would like more information contact Karen Sweet at karen.sweet@acrkd.org.

NEW LOGO COLORS

IN ORDER TO UPDATE AND GIVE OUR NEW WEBSITE A FRESH LOOK, WE CHANGED THE COLORS ON OUR LOGO.

WATCH FOR THE NEW WEBSITE.

IT'S ALMOST COMPLETE!

Our RCD Board Members

Jocelyn Combs,
President
Paul Banke
Tim Koopmann
Rodney Tripp
Brenda Vieux

FUN AG FACT
 HAMBURGER MEAT
 FROM A SINGLE
 STEER WILL MAKE
 ABOUT 720
 QUARTER POUND
 HAMBURGER
 PATTIES. THAT'S
 ENOUGH FOR A
 FAMILY OF 4 TO
 ENJOY
 HAMBURGERS EACH
 DAY FOR NEARLY 6
 MONTHS.

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Celebrate National Ag Week

(Continued from page 1) each year. You can join this effort by buying locally when possible and educating children about agriculture and where their food comes from (not the store).

Events happening here during Ag Week

March 18—The Wine Group presents a Grape Expo featuring "buying local" bringing growers and buyers together.

March 19—The Conservation Partnership presents -Ranch Conservation Planning part 2 in a series.

March 20—AG DAY

For more information contact Peggy Kiefer at the Conservation Partnership (925) 371-0154 ext.122, peggy.kiefer@acrcd.org or the Agriculture Council of America at (913) 491-1895.

National Agriculture Day is organized by the Agriculture Council of America (ACA) and sponsored by companies like ADM. ACA is a nonprofit organization composed of leaders in the agricultural, food and fiber community, dedicating its efforts to increasing the public's awareness of agriculture's role in modern society.



Let's Conserve Private Ranches

CA Rangeland Conservation Coalition held its 3rd statewide Summit. The theme of the conference was "Let's conserve private ranches". The keynote speakers were ranchers from a Montana coalition. Several speakers presented valuable research about oak regeneration, bird as indicators of range health, rangeland monitoring protocols, and the relationship of private and public rangelands. The Coalition's focal area map was presented and discussed. Tim Koopmann served on a rancher panel. Milestones to date and 2008 priorities were presented. Participants included its members, including public agencies, ranchers, and ranching and conservation organizations. Steve Thompson, Regional Director of the CA-NV Region of Fish and Wildlife Service closed the day with these remarks. We must use our common goals, science and new partnerships affectively and aggressively to achieve measured success. "Get 'er done!" See carangeland.org for the Resolution and other materials.

2008 Workshop Schedule

This is a list of our currently planned workshops. Check our website and future newsletters as there may be changes and additions.

Ranch Conservation Planning

March 12, 19 & 26 and
 April 2

California Red-legged Frog

April 30– May 2

California Tiger Salamander

June 17 & 18



Grazing 101

Date to be determined

Conservation Easement

Series #3

Date to be determined

Raptor and Squirrel Workshop

Date to be determined



For more workshop information or suggestions please contact Peggy Kiefer (925) 371-0154 peggy.kiefer@acrcd.org



NRCS biologist holds a California Tiger Salamander

Issue 2

Creek Maintenance

Are you a landowner looking for ideas on how to solve problems in your creek? Now is a great time to plant willows to establish vegetation along creek banks to prevent erosion and provide important wildlife habitat.

Historically, willows grew among most of the creeks in coastal California, and still do in many. Willows are an effective and inexpensive way to armor creek banks, active headcuts, and gullies.

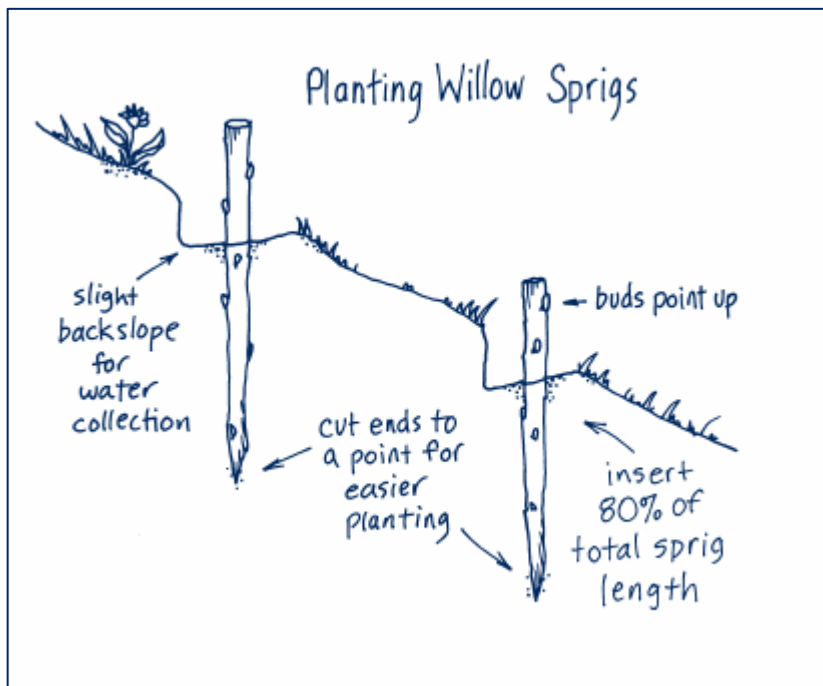


Revegetating with willows is the easiest way to establish woody vegetation on a bare creek bank. Adequate year-round water is key for willow establishment and survival. Even if a creek doesn't have year-round above ground flows, the groundwater may be near enough to the surface to support willow.

Willows can be planted from dormant cuttings or "sprigs" following these steps:

- Cut willow sprigs at least 3/4" in diameter, and bigger is better. Large diameter branches can be used. Cuttings should be at least 14" long.
- Plant cuttings by pushing the cut end into soft solid, or make a pilot hole with a short stick or pick. If you make a hole, make sure to compress soil tightly around the cuttings. At least two-thirds of the length of the cutting should be buried to give plenty of area for root growth. Sprigs should be angled slightly downstream with buds pointing up.
- Plant cuttings along streams or in gullies that have enough moisture to sustain them throughout the summer. If willows are becoming overgrown and clogging the stream channel, prune and shape them to an upright form.

More information is available online at the Urban Creeks Council website http://www.urbandreeks.org/Current_Programs.html or by visiting www.nrcs.gov/ (insert website you found here).





**CONSERVATION
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Celebrate National Ag Week

Alameda County 2006 Crops (2007 will be out soon)



Field Crops

Crop	Harvested Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Hay, Alfalfa	389	5.37	2,089	Ton	\$143.00	\$ 299,000
Hay, Other	3,648	3.00	10,944	Ton	\$ 86.00	941,000
Range Pasture	189,000			Acre	\$ 17.87	3,377,000
Misc.	315	(Includes sugar beets, safflower, Corn silage, barley, oats, wheat, beans irrigated pasture, etc.)				
TOTAL	193,352					\$4,883,000

Fruit and Nut Crops

Crop	Bearing Harvest	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Grapes	(Wine)					
Red	1,681	4	6,590	Ton	Various	\$ 6,090,000
White	600	3	1,944	Ton	Various	1,914,000
Misc. Fruit	120	(includes olives, walnuts, Strawberries, etc.)				45,000
TOTAL	2,401					\$ 8,049,000



Livestock & Poultry

Item	No. of Head	Total Weight	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Cattle and Calves	13,812	85,502	Cwt.	Various	\$ 8,721,000
Misc. Poultry And Livestock Products	(includes rabbits, sheep, Wool, lambs, hogs, bees, and apiary products (honey))				155,000
TOTAL					\$ 8,876,000

