Amador Resource Conservation District

October 2026

NEWSLETTER

Amador County Fair

What a wonderful time tabling at the Amador County Fair! It was such a pleasure connecting with the community, meeting so many great people, and sharing in on the fun and excitement of this beloved local event. We're grateful to everyone who stopped by saying "hello," and grabbing some stickers, seeds and informational materials. We also can happily announce we have a winner for our pollinator garden we were raffling off. If you didn't get a chance to sign up for our mailing list at the fair but want to keep up to date with our programs, there is aways time! Click the link below to sign up.

Join Our Mailing List

"Thank You, Gordon Long"

Gordon Long has been a critical part of ARCD/AFSC's success and growth over the years. Through his role as Forestry Project Manager, he helped build a culture focused on getting good work done, solving problems, and supporting one another as a team. His dedication and commitment to the communities we serve have left a lasting mark on the organization.

Gordon will be greatly missed, both in the office and even more so out in the field, where his knowledge, leadership, and sense of humor were always appreciated. While we are sad to see him leave the RCD, we are grateful for everything he has contributed and excited to see the great things he will continue to accomplish. Thank you, Gordon, for all you've done for ARCD/AFSC. We wish you the very best in your next chapter.

Defensible Space Assistance Program, 2026

We're excited to share an update on the Defensible Space Assistance Program, as it is now getting underway. Our contractor Alta Vista has treated over 40 properties for defensible space, check out some before and after photos. The difference is huge! They have also begun work on the removal of some of the approved hazardous trees.

Our local fire departments are hard at work continuing to complete the assessments for our applicants.

Thank you to everyone involved for your patience and commitment as we work together to make this pilot program a success! We have applied for more funding to hopefully bring this program back next year.

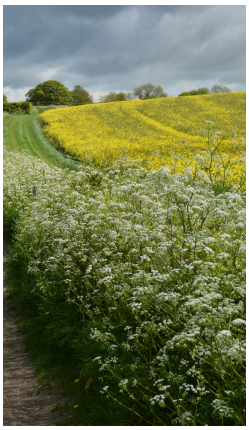
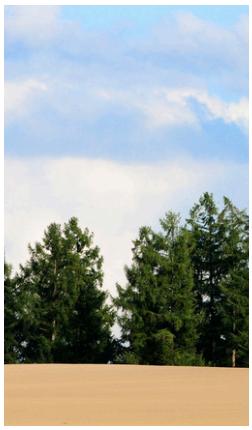
Funding for this project provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Prevention Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.

Cropland Soil Health Workshop

Thank you to everyone who attended our Cropland Field Day! It was great to connect with you and chat about plans and ideas for hedgerows, irrigation, and cover crops.

We're looking forward to hosting some soil health workshops in the new year and continuing these conversations.

If you're interested in receiving notifications about upcoming field days, workshops, and other events, please join our mailing list.
Thanks again for joining us—we look forward to seeing you at a future event!

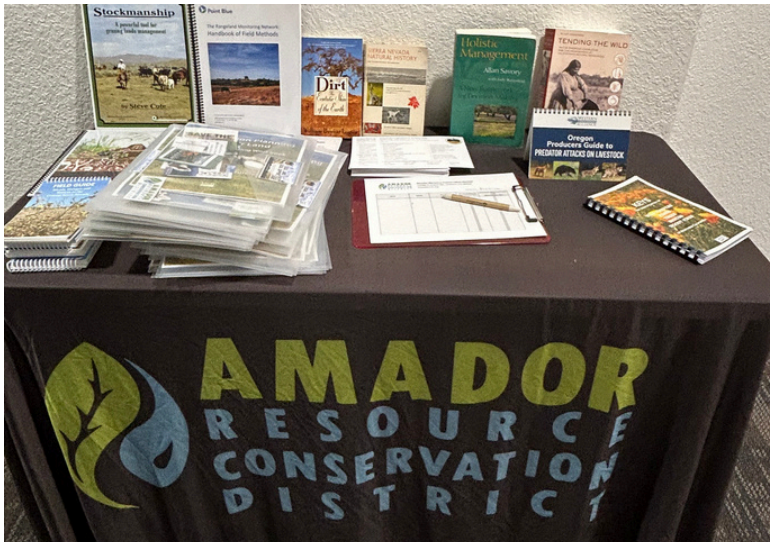
Provided by the AACT Natural & Working Lands Hub, a collaborative of the Alpine Watershed Group and Amador, Calaveras County, and Tuolumne County Resource Conservation Districts. Event funding provided by the California Department of Conservation, and California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Ranching for Profit

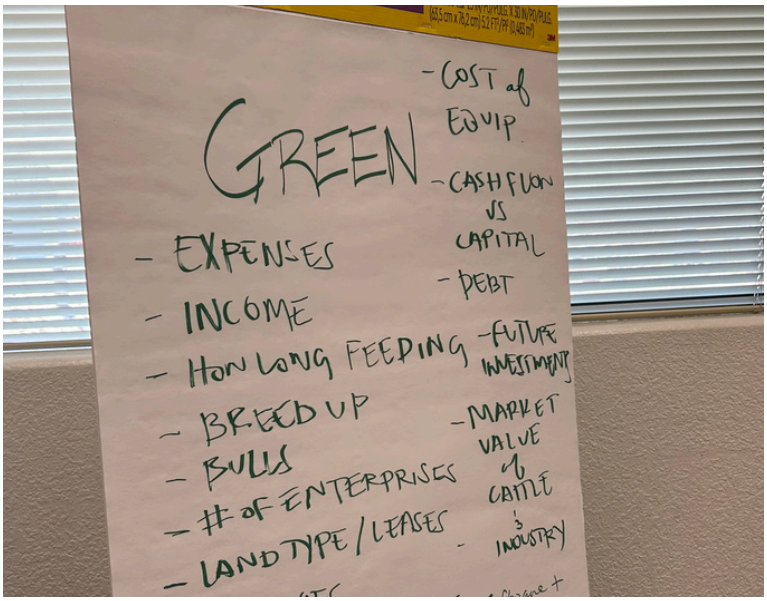
A Rangeland Health Series Workshop

The Ranching for Profit workshop brought together a diverse group of ranchers, including multi-generational family operations, first-generation ranchers, and families that lease land to ranchers. This mix of experience and perspectives created a valuable environment for learning, discussion, and collaboration.

Participants explored practical strategies for improving ranch profitability, strengthening business management, and making informed decisions for the future. The workshop emphasized the importance of understanding the financial side of ranching, setting clear goals, managing resources effectively, and developing systems that support both the business and the people involved.



A key strength of the workshop was the opportunity for ranchers from different backgrounds and stages of their careers to learn from one another. Multi-generational operations shared the challenges and opportunities of succession and working across generations, while first-generation ranchers brought fresh perspectives and experiences from building their operations from the ground up. Family operations were able to consider how communication, roles, and shared goals contribute to a successful ranching business.



We want to thank our speaker, Dave Voth from Ranching for Profit, for a wonderfully engaging workshop. Thank you to Halter for sponsoring the lunch and giving our workshop participants more information about virtual fencing. And of course, thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to join us on a Saturday!

Provided by the AACT Natural & Working Lands Hub, a collaborative of the Alpine Watershed Group and Amador, Calaveras County, and Tuolumne County Resource Conservation Districts. Event funding provided by the California Department of Conservation.

CARCD Speak Off

Calling all high school students (9-12th graders) for a statewide student speech competition!

Three Rounds. One Stage.

The annual CARCD Speak Off contest is underway. Soon our local students will hear if they move forward to the virtual Regional Round of the competition. They will be competing later this month.

Want to learn more about this year's theme and the competition as a whole, click the link below!

Speak-Off Contest Information

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Upcoming Events

California Grazing Management Field School

Date: November 13-14, 2026
Location: Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center in Browns Valley, CA
Application due date: October 21, 2026

Apply to the Field School

UC CE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Agriculture and Natural Resources

Beginning Farming Academy

Is it your dream to start a small farm or ranch?

The academy offered by UC Cooperative Extension is a 1-day introduction to starting a small commercial farm or ranch and will help prospective farmers start their operations. Participants will learn to assess their resources, research markets, analyze the potential economic viability of their operations and learn what makes foothill farming different.

Date: October 30th, 2026
Time: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Location: 12200 Airport Rd # B, Jackson, CA 95642
Price: $30

Registration Link

UC CE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Agriculture and Natural Resources

Central Sierra Agriculture & Working Lands Survey

Completing the Ag and Working Lands Survey helps us better understand the needs and priorities of our agricultural community, ensuring that we can provide targeted technical assistance and informs our team on grants specific towards assisting our communities.

Central Sierra Agriculture & Working Lands Survey

Recent Events

On September 12th, Amador RCD co-hosted the first ever Gold Country Wildlife and Habitat Fair with Calaveras and Tuolumne RCDs. We had close to 200 participants visit us at Kennedy Mine to learn about local wildlife and their habitats. Thank you for all our sponsors and participating booths. We hope to bring it back a bigger and better event back next year!

Funding made available through Climate Resilience through Habitat Restoration on California Lands Grant from the California Wildlife Conservation Board and California Association of Resource Conservation Districts.

Contact Us

@amador_rcd

(209) 214-9727

https://www.facebook.com/AmadorRCD

https://www.amadorrcd.org/

Community Chipping Program

The Amador RCD is happy to report our Community Chipping Program will be starting up again shortly! Please check out our website for more information!

The community chipping program is available to all Amador County residents who:

- Organize their communities first (e.g. Firewise, HOA, Road Associations, and/or streets with 5 or more houses participating),
- A designated neighborhood lead contacts the ARCD project manager to coordinate date(s) that the community will be ready for chipping services,
- Then participating houses in the community prepare their vegetative slash pile(s) along roadsides or driveways,
- And then the community lead emails the ARCD project manager to receive the community's unique community chipping request form.

ARCD Community Chipping Program

Anticipated Chipping Program Run Times:
Fall 2026: late October-December
Spring 2027: April-May
Summer 2027: July-August
Fall 2027: October-November
Future Run Timelines: TBD* (*as permitted by funding)

Funding for this project provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Prevention Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.