



**Doug Teeter**

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CDFA, Urban Agriculture Grant Program  
Attention: Grant Administrators

**RE: Farm Teach, a grant program application from Paul Tupy, Hidden Springs Family Ranch.**

Hello, Grant Administrators;

It is my pleasure to write this Letter of Support for the grant application presented by Paul and Kara Tupy, Owners/Operators of the Hidden Springs Family Ranch (aka: Hidden Springs Ranch), Oroville, CA.

I believe you will find the Tupys are a viable candidates for the *Urban Agriculture Grant Program*. Kara is a School Administrator by profession and together with her husband, Paul, (an experienced Farmer & Peace Officer) they have cultivated educational and agricultural activities offered by local Home Charter schools and as Church youth activities. Their local partnerships have exposed youth to the lure of farm work and farm life.

The Tupys are excited that they met the program requirements of being with 25 miles of an Urban center. They are in-fact within 25 miles of three primary urban areas of Butte County, namely: Oroville, Chico, and Paradise, CA. To their benefit, the Tupys have been forming alliances with well-known non-profit organizations, one of which is the Chico Housing Assistance Team (CHAT). CHAT has been proving itself as a reliable resource to housing and other community needs in Butte County, including involvement with food assistance, and will prove to be a strong liaison to the proposed Farm Teach program at Hidden Springs Family Ranch.

The **Farm Teach** program will cultivate agricultural literacy and create educational opportunities, as it relates to growing and consumption of locally-grown agricultural products. An award of funds would allow Hidden Springs Family Farm to expand their programs, by offering a *Youth Workforce Development program*. The **Farm Teach** program would provide *paid internship opportunities* for High School and College Interns to learn about agriculture, while raising animals and growing produce. In turn, these products will be donated to CHAT's food distribution program and dispensed through a mobile farm stand pilot project, improving the urban community's access to fresh food.

With their combined life and farm experiences, and their ability to network and form alliances, I am confident that an award of grant funds would be worthwhile. Please consider the Farm Teach program for connecting Youth to Farm, Farm to Community, and increasing food security to Butte County's low to moderate income, urban populations.

Sincerely,

**Doug Teeter, Supervisor**  
District 5, Butte County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Paul & Kara Tupy, Hidden Springs Family Ranch