

October 19, 2023

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Sacramento, CA

Re: Hidden Springs Family Ranch

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems on the CSU, Chico campus to wholeheartedly recommend Hidden Springs Family Ranch for this California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) grant, with the goal of educating the next generation of youth in sustainable agricultural practices. As someone who has had the privilege of working closely with Hidden Springs Ranch and its dedicated owners, I can attest to their unwavering commitment to sustainable agriculture and their exceptional ability to educate and inspire young minds.

The Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems (“The Center”) focuses on creating a truly sustainable world through a system of agriculture that addresses the biggest issues of our time—global climate change, soil health and enhanced ecosystem services, food and water security—while offering increased yields and greater health and prosperity for farmers and ranchers and the greater community. The Center carries out its mission through an array of activities including a Master’s degree program, producer incentives, a food hub for climate-smart agriculture and on-farm climate-smart certification.

Hidden Springs Family Ranch, a 125-acre family ranch, is an example of what can be achieved when the principles of sustainability, education and agriculture intersect. The owners of Hidden Springs Family Ranch, Paul and Kara Tupy, are not only skilled and passionate producers, but also devoted educators and stewards of their land. They have a long history of welcoming K-12 youth to their land for Farm Camps and hands-on educational activities. Additionally, they emphasize sustainable and climate-friendly agricultural practices in the day to day care of their land and animals.

Part of what sets Hidden Springs Family Ranch apart is their unique approach to education. Through hands-on experiences, youth visitors to their farm are introduced to the intricate web of ecological relationships that sustain life on a farm. From caring for cattle to cultivating crops, students gain valuable insights into the world of sustainable agriculture. These experiences not only educate but also inspire, leaving a lasting impact on young minds.

Hidden Springs Family Ranch's dedication to creating a more sustainable future through education aligns perfectly with the goals of the CDFA grant. Their existing programs are already contributing to the development of a new generation of youth who are not historically able to access non-traditional educational opportunities. The grant will undoubtedly enhance their ability to reach more students and deepen the impact of their educational initiatives.

In closing, I commit our support for Hidden Springs Family Ranch and believe that their commitment to sustainable agriculture and education makes them a highly deserving recipient. Exposing young people in the K-12 age range to sustainable agriculture opportunities contributes to The Center's mission of creating a truly sustainable world. The positive influence of their work on our community, environment, and the future of agriculture is invaluable.

If you require any further information or have additional questions about my recommendation please do not hesitate to contact me at 415-309-2426 or by email at cnferdon@csuchico.edu.

Best,



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