

California Soil Health Field Days—Spring 2026 Day 1

Hosted By: CSU Chico Center for Regenerative Agriculture & Resilient Systems

Location: Agricultural Education Center, 311 Nicholas C Schouten Ln, Chico, CA 95928

****4.5 CCA CEUs: 2 Nutrient Management, 2 Soil & Water Management, & 0.5 Sustainability****

Wednesday, March 18th, 2026: Research Focus—Systems and Integration in Focus

7:30 - 8:00 am—Registration: Coffee, Continental Breakfast and Social Time

8:10 - 8:20 am—Welcome from David Hassenzahl, *Dean of the College Natural Sciences & Interim Dean for the College of Agriculture*

8:20 - 8:30 am—Introductions and Overview: Dr. Tim LaSalle, Emcee

Tim LaSalle is a co-founder of the Center and former CEO of the Rodale Institute and a longtime leader in regenerative agriculture, known for advancing soil health-based farming systems, farmer education, and policy efforts that support resilient food and agricultural systems.

8:30 - 9:00 am—Dr. Cynthia Daley: *What Do We Mean by Regenerative? Aligning Definitions, Science, and Practice*

Dr. Cynthia Daley is a Professor within the College of Agriculture and Director of the Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems at CSU Chico, where her work focuses on regenerative agriculture, soil health, and resilient food and farming systems.

9:00 - 10:00 am—Soil Carbon Accrual Project Panel: *This session will provide an overview of the UCOP/SCAP project, outlining its background, goals, and project design, and will feature faculty sharing key observations and insights, including major ecological, social, and economic findings emerging from the initiative.*

Panel: Moderated by Dr. Cynthia Daley, P.I. Soil Carbon Accrual Project—Statewide

- Dr. Garrett C Liles—Soil Carbon
- Dr. Logan B Smith—Soil Biology
- MS. Raquel Krach—Water

10:00 - 10:30 am—Break/Visit booths

10:30 - 11:30 am—Dr. Brent Holtz, UCCE San Joaquin County: *From Orchard Removal to Soil Renewal—The Power of Whole Orchard Recycling.*

Dr. Brent Holtz is a University of California Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor in San Joaquin County whose research and outreach focus on orchard systems, including the development and adoption of Whole Orchard Recycling to improve soil health, carbon storage, and orchard sustainability.

11:30 - 12:30 pm—Dr. Kristin Trippe, USDA ARS, Corvallis, Oregon: *Harnessing Biochar to Shape Soil Microbial Communities and Soil Health*

Dr. Kristin Trippe is a research microbiologist with USDA Agricultural Research Service in Corvallis, Oregon, whose work focuses on biochar, soil health, and microbial community dynamics in agricultural and natural systems.

12:30 - 1:30 pm—Lunch: Catered

1:30 - 2:30 pm—Dr. Amélie Gaudin, Agroecology Lab, UC Davis: *“Cover crops as keystone practices for soil and ecosystem health in Almond systems”*

Dr. Amélie Gaudin is an agroecologist at UC Davis and leader of the Agroecology Lab, where her research examines soil–plant–microbe interactions and their role in building resilient, productive cropping systems.

2:30 - 5:00 pm—Rotations at the farm: There will be a 30-minute demo, followed by a 10-minute Q&A and a 5-minute rotation time.

Rotation A—2:30 - 3:15; Rotation B—3:15 - 4:00; Rotation C—4:00 - 4:45

- Precision Technology
- Equipment Demonstration (Roller Crimper/No-Till Drill)
- TAP In Field Soil Health Assessment Demonstration

5:00 - 7:00 pm—Social Hour & Visit Booths: Appetizers and Beer/Wine. Vendors will also present products and services. **SPONSORED BY:**



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Affiliations: Glenn, Mendocino, Humboldt, Butte Co Resource Conservation Districts; California Association of Resource Conservation Districts; NRCS; Butte Co Farm Bureau; California Olive Ranch; American Olive Oil Producers Association; California Department of Food & Agriculture; California Farm Bureau

California Soil Health Field Days—Spring 2026 DAY 2

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****4.5 CCA CEUs: 4.5 Crop Management****

Thursday March 19th, 2026: Farmer to Farmer Presentations— Lessons from the Field

7:30 - 8:20 am—Registration: Coffee, Continental Breakfast and Social Time

8:20 - 8:30 am—Intros and Overview: Dr. Tim LaSalle

8:30 - 9:30 am—Rick Clark: *What 20+ Years of Soil Health Farming Taught Me—Practical Lessons for California Producers.*

Rick Clark is a pioneering Indiana farmer whose decades of on-farm experimentation with cover crops, no-till, and systems thinking have demonstrated how soil health practices can reduce inputs, manage risk, and improve long-term farm resilience.

9:30 - 10:30 am —Scott Park: *Adapting Soil Health Practices to California Cropping Systems—Lessons from Park Farming*

Scott Park of Park Farming, recipient of the 2023 California Leopold Conservation Award, is widely recognized as a pioneer of sustainable, regenerative organic farming practices in California.

10:30 - 11:30 am—Drew Cheney, Machado Family Farms: *Rebuilding Orchard Systems from the Soil Up—A Holistic Approach at Machado Family Farms*

Drew Cheney is a California orchard manager at Machado Family Farms, where he is leading a transition toward holistic, soil-centered management to improve orchard health, resilience, and long-term productivity.

11:30 - 12:00 pm—Ben & Denise Carter: *Fully Integrated Crops and Livestock—Lessons from the Field*

Ben and Denise Carter are California farmers who operate an integrated crop–livestock operation, using soil health–focused management to build resilient soils, productive crops, and a more sustainable farming system.

12:00 noon - 1:00 pm: Lunch—Catered

1:00 - 2:00 pm—Kelly Mullville, Paicines Ranch: *From Vineyard Design to Soil Health—Regenerative Production at Paicines Ranch*

Kelly Mulville is a California viticulturist and partner at Paicines Ranch, where he is a leader in regenerative vineyard production and co-developer of the Wattson Trellis system focused on soil health, resilience, and wine quality.

2:00 - 2:30 pm—Dave Hassenzahl, Dean, Colleges of Natural Sciences & Interim Dean for the College of Agriculture: *Training Tomorrow's Agricultural Workforce—A Farmer-Focused Conversation with the University.*

This is a positive, future-forward discussion and a rare opportunity to speak directly with College of Agriculture leadership about what we need to be doing now to support production agriculture and address its evolving needs in the future.

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm—Transit to Farm Tour

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm—Comanche Creek Farm Demonstration with Sean Paul Mindrum: *On-site demonstration exploring Comanche Creek Farm's role in a farm-to-fork system, from soil and production through harvest and use.*

Rotation A—3:00 - 3:40 pm; Rotation B—3:40: - 4:20 pm; Rotation C—4:20 – 5:00 pm

- Beneficial Insects & Insect Mounting Demonstration
- Food Hub Opportunities & Growth Strategies
- Comanche Creek Farm's role in a farm-to-fork system

5:00 pm—Head back To University Farm

(THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING CALIFORNIA SOIL HEALTH FIELD DAYS—2026)



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