

THANK YOU

for supporting our local farmers hurt by the wildfires

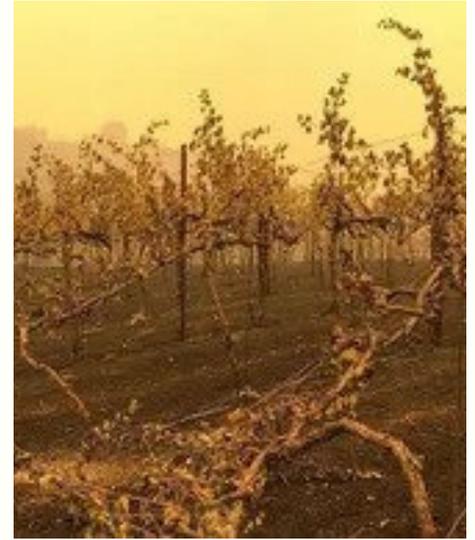


Photo credit: Lisa Murray

Your Bounty of the County: Stronger Together Donations Made a Difference

Dear friend,

You are receiving this letter because you were one of 167 community donors who stepped forward this fall to help Solano County's small farms and agribusinesses devastated by the wildfires that swept through the area in August 2020.

Thanks to the generosity of people like yourself, Sustainable Solano collected nearly \$10,350 during our Bounty of the County: Stronger Together events! We are giving 100% of these to farms that suffered fire damage.

Your donations were split evenly to support the farms and help with their most pressing immediate needs. Some of these farms generously offered their share back to the fund to help those farms that needed it the most. Sustainable Solano issued 9 checks for around \$1,148 each.

The challenge is far from over. The farmers are still in grief and shock, and it will take a long time to heal human souls and land, clean debris, restore the farms to their full capacities, rebuild lost structures and recover lost businesses.

We invite you to walk together with our farming community on their long way to recovery! Find more ways to help on the next page.

In gratitude,

Your Solano County farming community and Sustainable Solano

All of you should have received an official donation acknowledgement letter by now. If you have not, please get in touch with us at info@sustainablesolano.org and we'll send it to you right away.

GET TO KNOW THOSE HURT BY THE FIRES BELOW AND AT SUSTAINABLESOLANO.ORG/FIRE

ACCESS ADVENTURE

BRAZELTON RANCH

CASTLE ROCK FARM

CLAY'S BEES / PLEASANTS VALLEY HONEY CO.

COYOTE CREEK RANCH

GIRL ON THE HILL

JOYFUL RANCH

LA BORGATA VINEYARD & DISTILLERY

PLEASANTS VALLEY IRIS FARM

SAMUELS RANCH

SUSTAINABLE

SKY RANCH ESTATE

SOUL FOOD FARM

ZINGER RANCH



Photo credit: Lisa Murray

'It Was a Terrifying Night'

“Shock” was the most common word used by the farmers describing their experience on that traumatic night in August. We asked if we could share their stories with you.

Our farmers recalled painful memories of waking up in the middle of the night to the fast-moving wall of flame, with no warning and very little time to organize themselves and their loved ones. They talked about their efforts to inform their neighbors, of losing sight of each other as they scrambled to put down the flames or evacuate farm animals. Farmers shared painful stories of injuries sustained by both humans and animals, watching houses and barns catching fire, losing buildings that were built and cared for by multiple generations of the same family, of burned land, 100-year-old oaks in flames and falling, farm equipment melted and fences and wells burned.

Theirs are stories of immense pain and suffering, but also of incredible camaraderie, generosity and mutual support, strong resilience and hope, and ultimately love. Thank you for being a part of helping in their recovery!

How to Help Second-Stage Funding

Sustainable Solano has received additional funding to begin helping with the recovery. Solano Community Foundation's generous gift of \$25,000 and any donations received earmarked for “fire relief” will fund specific projects on these farms, such as rebuilding, permits and equipment. If you would like to donate: Send checks to Sustainable Solano, earmarked for “Fire Relief” at P.O. Box 1215, Benicia, CA 94510 or donate through PayPal using the Donate button at SustainableSolano.org. As always, we'll keep the community informed about progress and how the funds are spent.

Sow Beautiful

Join this Pleasants Valley wildflower seed-spreading project to seed native flowers in the area this November before the rains begin. Learn more and sign up at PleasantsValleyAgricultureAssociation.com

Volunteer Help

The Pleasants Valley Agriculture Association is creating a list of interested volunteers and those with skills and equipment that could be used to help with the recovery. Sign up at PleasantsValleyAgricultureAssociation.com Please be patient if you do not hear back right away: it's a monumental task to match a property and a volunteer and to ensure safety of the work environment given the post-fire hazards and COVID challenges.

BUY LOCAL & STAY INFORMED

The best way to support local farms and businesses that were affected by the fires, smoke and ash is to buy their products! Find out how to find and buy local food at SustainableSolano.org/local-food

Find out more about the farms affected by the fires at PleasantsValleyAgricultureAssociation.com

Get the latest updates on farm fire recovery and how to help at Sustainable Solano's Farm Fire Recovery page: SustainableSolano.org/fire

Sign up for Sustainable Solano's newsletter to stay informed of upcoming events, classes and other news at SustainableSolano.org/contact