



QUAKER OAKS FARM

BIG THANKS TO OUR
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

Alyssa Nelson

Darlene Franco

David Dudley (Treasurer)

Joanne Dudley (through 9/20)

Kassandra Hishida (Recording Secretary)

Mary Lee (through 8/20)

Melissa Lovett-Adair (Chair)

Steven Lee (through 8/20)


Yaynicut Franco (Farm Manager)


New Member: Carlos Gomez (beg. 12/20)


Resident Caretaker: Andrea Beane (through 1/21)

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING & CAPACITY BUILDING

 **Central Valley Agroecology:** We are excited to be collaborating with local partners to envision and build a regional hub for agroecological farming. Several of our Board members supported a one-year planning process funded by the [CDFA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program](#). Check out [This Report](#) to read what they learned and what they'll be working on next.

 **Resident Caretaker:** In January 2020, Andrea Beane moved into the Lovett House as our first-ever Resident Caretaker. During her time with QOF, Andrea has contributed greatly to the renovations and property maintenance. While we're sad that she won't be returning next year, we've learned a lot from this experience and are grateful for all that Andrea has done to support our organization.

 **Pacific YM RepCom:** Over a weekend in early March, Quaker Oaks Farm & Visalia Friends Meeting co-hosted Pacific Yearly Meeting's Representative Committee meeting. As we welcomed our guests we took time to build relationships and deepen their understanding of QOF's partnership with Visalia Friends and caretaking of The Land over shared meals and guided farm tours as well as Wukchumni Cultural Education led by Darlene & Lalo Franco.

 **Building Renovations:** We have invested lots of love, care, time, and resources into the ongoing Lovett and Sanger House renovations. We now have beautiful new floors in place and fresh coats of paint throughout both houses.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR & FARM MANAGER

Hihde'! Hello from all of us at Quaker Oaks Farm, also known to some of us as "The Land." 2020 has presented many unexpected challenges and changes for us, as it has for so many. The pandemic and the departure of valued board members and our Farm Manager of the past 5 years, Steven Lee, led us to undertake a Spring Camp and organizational evaluation. We reflected on what is most important and how to build on our strengths: a community of caring people dedicated to our vision and the resilience of the land. We are now better positioned to work in more integrity with one another.

We remain focused on our purpose: **Bringing people together to learn from the land and each other to grow a better community.** This means deeply listening to one another and honoring our capacities as individuals and as an organization. It means honoring and supporting the Wukchumni with whom we partner and collaborate in direct, tangible ways. It means people stepping up to take on new roles, trying new things and asking for help from you, our supporters. Thank you to all our volunteers, donors, advisors, and our dedicated board. Together we are making good things happen!

To learn more about our latest work and partnerships be sure to watch the video we released in August 2020, as seen on our website
[QuakerOaksFarm.org](https://www.QuakerOaksFarm.org)

- Melissa Lovett-Adair, Board Chair - and - Yaynicut Franco, Farm Manager -



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT



QUAKER OAKS FARM ACKNOWLEDGES THAT WE OPERATE ON A PORTION OF THE TRADITIONAL LAND OF THE WUKCHUMNI YOKUTCH THAT IS CURRENTLY HELD IN TRUST BY VISALIA FRIENDS MEETING. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN QOF AND THE TRIBE, AND FOR ALL THE WUKCHUMNI INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BOARD MEMBERS, ADVISORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS. WE HONOR THE WUKCHUMNI ELDERS OF THE PAST AND PRESENT, AND THE EMERGING YOUTH.

TULE TRACT RESTORATION



Over the past three years, we have been working with our partners to restore the Tule Tract & share what we're learning with others. Next time you come for a visit you'll see signs that the land is healing, including the return of Tule, Deer Grass, and other native plants. You'll also see four new educational kiosks placed throughout the Tule Tract Trail that highlight stories of the plant, animal & human relatives who share & nurture this land.



BUILDING HEALTHY SOILS

We are now entering our third and final year as a participant in the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) Healthy Soils Program. With the support of our Farm Manager, we are implementing farming practices that build healthy soil to benefit all life on this land. Some of the healthy soils practices we are modeling at Quaker Oaks Farm include mulching, cover crops, and hedgerows.



Photo: Alyssa Nelson

Nurture the Land and You Nurture Everything Else

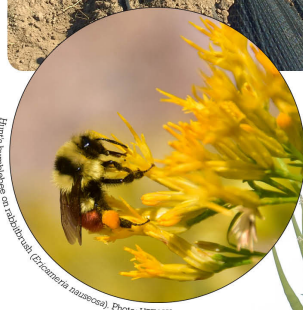
Like any ecosystem, soil needs the basics of food, air and water to thrive. Organic matter—anything that is living or was once living—helps the soil become a sponge, capturing and holding on to water and nutrients and providing food to plants and microorganisms. Soil is much more than an inert thing keeping plants upright! In this ecosystem, fire is an essential element as well.

Nature needs complexity and redundancy. Hedgerows on the borders of fields provide resources for bees and birds who pollinate what we plant. Cover crops keep the ground cool, preventing evaporation and adding nutrients. Native bees obtain the food they need from native plants. We are learning at every step: what flourishes, what gets out of hand, what struggles, what gets eaten by other critters. A healthy ecosystem benefits all of us—human and animal relatives alike. We learn from the land, we give to the land. In return, the land gives to us, to other creatures and to the next people who come to live on this land.



This hedgerow on the edge of a cultivated field will triple the abundance of pollinators and significantly reduce soil runoff when it rains. Photo: Melissa Lovett-Adair

What water there is must be shared with all beings who need it. Drip emitters placed at the base of each plant put water where the plant's roots can access it, reducing evaporation and conserving this important resource. Photo: Alyssa Nelson



Hairy woodcock (Oreoscoptes montanus) Photo: USF&W

The mutually beneficial connections between native plants and native pollinators have been evolving over millennia. The nectar and pollen offered by plants entice insects to pollinate as they forage from flower to flower. Without plants, the pollinators have no food; without pollinators, the plants don't fruit or set seed.

narrow-leaf milkweed (Asclepias fascicularis) Photo: Laura Lovett

Both *Wau wau* (Narrow-leaf Milkweed), left, and *Pin wihda'a* (Stinging Nettle), below, have long been used by Native Peoples who dry and pound the stalks, extracting fibers that can be twisted into rope or used for baskets. Nettle also supplies food and medicine.



stinging nettle (Urtica dioica) Photo: Leah Morris



songbird Photo: Jerry Ting

Songbirds need a garden full of protein-rich insects to feed their young in spring. Shrubs and tall grasses provide seeds and nesting places. Plants with fruits, nuts, and berries in the fall provide nutrition for the coming winter.



WUKCHUMNI FARMS

The Wukchumni Tribe officially launched Wukchumni Farms here on The Land! The Tribe started a community garden for families to learn to grow their own healthy food, which has become increasingly important during the pandemic. It is an intergenerational space where youth and elders come together to learn about and practice traditional ways of growing food & medicines while stewarding land. Quaker Oaks Farm is committed to supporting the Tribe's vision for Wukchumni Farms, and we'll continue to partner as their work grows.



WUKCHUMNI YOUTH PEACE GARDEN

Thanks to board member Darlene Franco, we received a grant from the City of Visalia to offer youth-centered permaculture trainings in partnership with Jeanette Acosta, an Indigenous Permaculture specialist and a certified permaculture teacher/designer. With Jeanette's guidance, youth put their knowledge into practice by designing a peace garden. Their vision is to create a welcoming and relaxing place for youth to connect with The Land and each other. Cultural activities and traditional knowledge of the land were shared with the youth throughout this process. It is exciting to see our founder Beth Lovett's long-held dream come to life, incorporating the gardens she lovingly planted during her time on this land.

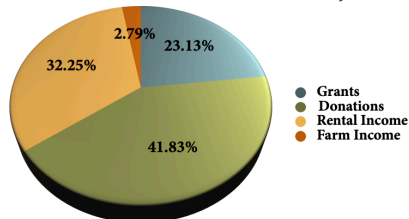
FINANCIAL INSIGHTS

Cash on Hand.....\$57,947 Debt.....\$0

2019-2020 Revenue

Grants	\$11,000	23.13%
Donations	\$19,897	41.83%
Rental Income	\$15,341	32.25%
Farm Income	\$ 1,325	2.79%

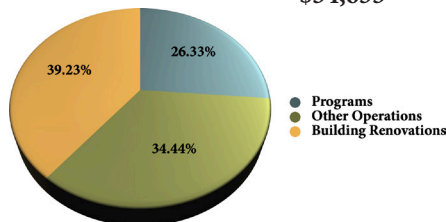
\$47,563



2019-2020 Expenses

Programs	\$14,391	26.33%
Other Operations	\$18,825	34.44%
Building Renovations	\$21,439	39.23%

\$54,655



- PLANS FOR 2021 -

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

We have openings on our vibrant volunteer board! We're looking for candidates with experience in any of these areas: organic agriculture, finance, accounting, fundraising, grant writing, or volunteer coordination.

INTERESTED IN LIVING IN COMMUNITY?

We're seeking a new Resident Caretaker or Caretaker Couple/Team to live in the Lovett House. A work trade of up to 14 hrs/wk of gardening and maintenance in exchange for reduced rent is negotiable. When travel is again possible, the caretaker will also welcome guests and community groups to rent the Lovett House for meetings, overnight stays and events.

GARDEN PLOTS COMING SOON!

Want to garden or farm alongside us? We are preparing to offer subleases!

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO

Info@QuakerOaksFarm.org

SPRING YOUTH CAMP UPDATE

COVID canceled our 2020 camp, but our youth-led Peace Garden project in partnership with the Wukchumni Tribe continues to make progress. At this point we're clear that we can't hold Spring Camp safely in 2021 either, so stay tuned for more about how QOF is continuing to provide youth learning and leadership opportunities on The Land and how the Peace Garden is coming together.

THANK YOU

We are deeply grateful for everyone who has offered their time, resources, skills, energy and care to our collective work and partnerships. Quaker Oaks Farm is an entirely volunteer-led organization and our programs are only possible thanks to our donors and the hard work of our board, advisors, and community partners, including the Wukchumni Tribe. Thank you all for helping us bring people together to learn from the land and each other in order to grow a better community.





QUAKER OAKS FARM

LEARN MORE & DONATE

www.QuakerOaksFarm.org

CONTACT US

info@quakeroaksfarm.org

(559) 744-3276

OUR LOCATION

17216 Ave. 296 - Visalia, CA 93292

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