**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.

**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

- 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.
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.

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.
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

**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.

**- 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

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**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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