



FARMER
AG
NETWORK



2026 Annual Report

Reflecting on the milestones, partnerships, and shared vision that launched our inaugural year.



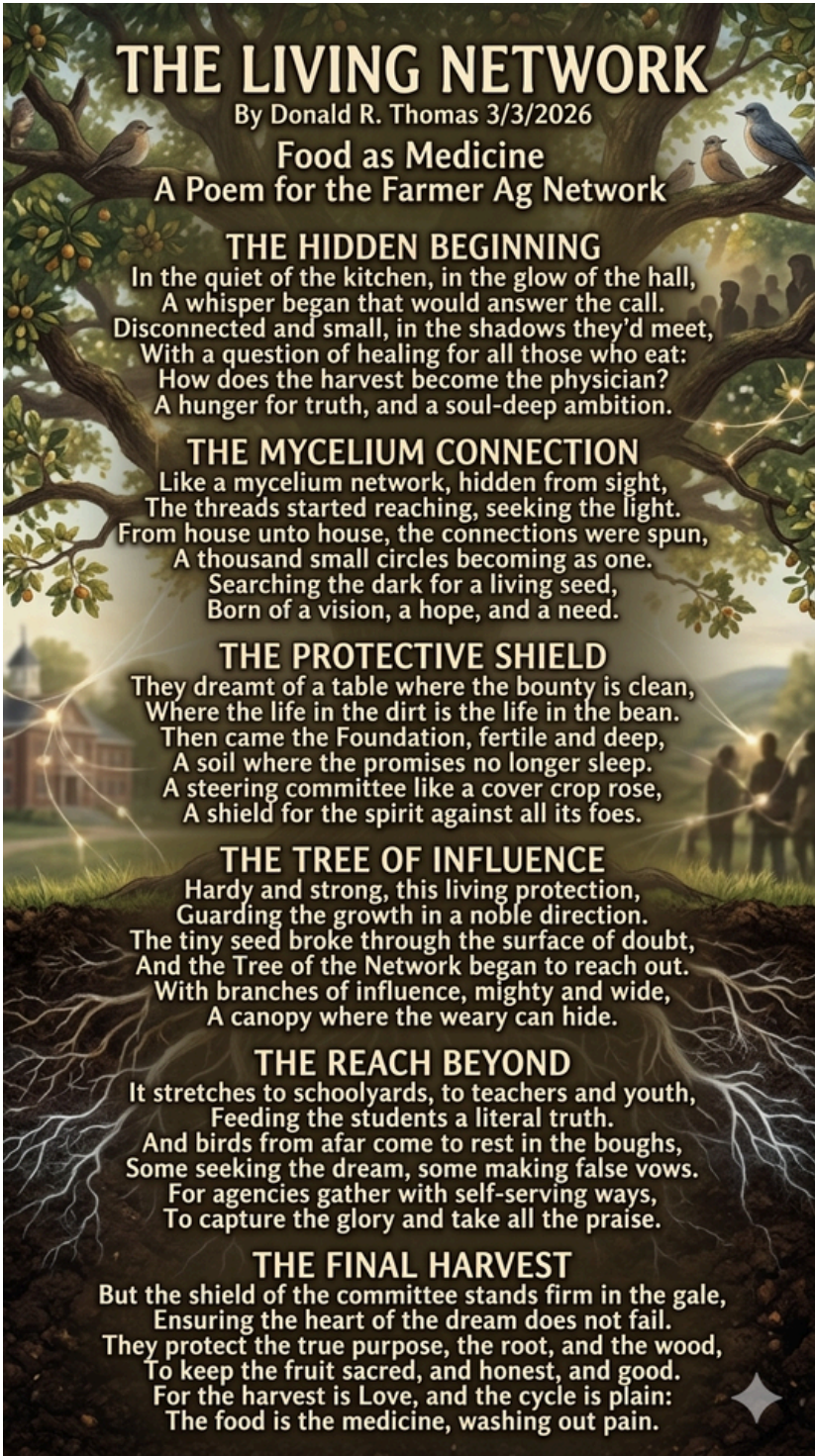
FARMERAGNETWORK.ORG

Overview



This past year has been one of momentum, connection, and community-building for the Farmer Ag Network. Although we received our initial funding in August 2025, it wasn't until November 2025 that we officially launched, and the months since have been filled with meaningful progress. In lieu of creating anything new, we're sharing a collection of materials we already have: photos that capture the energy and relationships at the heart of our work, a poem that reflects our mission, and letters that speak to the impact we're beginning to make. Together, these pieces tell the story of our early journey and the collaborative spirit that continues to move us forward.





THE LIVING NETWORK

By Donald R. Thomas 3/3/2026

Food as Medicine A Poem for the Farmer Ag Network

THE HIDDEN BEGINNING

In the quiet of the kitchen, in the glow of the hall,
A whisper began that would answer the call.
Disconnected and small, in the shadows they'd meet,
With a question of healing for all those who eat:
How does the harvest become the physician?
A hunger for truth, and a soul-deep ambition.

THE MYCELIUM CONNECTION

Like a mycelium network, hidden from sight,
The threads started reaching, seeking the light.
From house unto house, the connections were spun,
A thousand small circles becoming as one.
Searching the dark for a living seed,
Born of a vision, a hope, and a need.

THE PROTECTIVE SHIELD

They dreamt of a table where the bounty is clean,
Where the life in the dirt is the life in the bean.
Then came the Foundation, fertile and deep,
A soil where the promises no longer sleep.
A steering committee like a cover crop rose,
A shield for the spirit against all its foes.

THE TREE OF INFLUENCE

Hardy and strong, this living protection,
Guarding the growth in a noble direction.
The tiny seed broke through the surface of doubt,
And the Tree of the Network began to reach out.
With branches of influence, mighty and wide,
A canopy where the weary can hide.

THE REACH BEYOND

It stretches to schoolyards, to teachers and youth,
Feeding the students a literal truth.
And birds from afar come to rest in the boughs,
Some seeking the dream, some making false vows.
For agencies gather with self-serving ways,
To capture the glory and take all the praise.

THE FINAL HARVEST

But the shield of the committee stands firm in the gale,
Ensuring the heart of the dream does not fail.
They protect the true purpose, the root, and the wood,
To keep the fruit sacred, and honest, and good.
For the harvest is Love, and the cycle is plain:
The food is the medicine, washing out pain.





2nd Annual Triple F Ranch Regenerative field day

A special thank you from Richard Felipe

When I first thought about putting on a field day, it wasn't about putting on an event. It was about going back to a younger version of myself — the one who was hungry to learn, searching for answers, and sometimes feeling pretty alone in it all. I kept thinking, What would have helped me back then? That question is what shaped this whole day.

There were a lot of moving parts. Long days. Late nights. Lining up speakers, organizing details, praying it would all come together the way I saw it in my head.

But the heart behind it was simple: I wanted to create something real. Something honest. Something that would make the journey a little clearer and a little less lonely for someone else.

Seeing everyone show up, share openly, and pour their time and resources into this vision meant more to me than I can fully put into words. Because of you, this wasn't just a field day. It felt like family. For the first time in a long time, I didn't feel like I was pushing this movement uphill alone. I felt surrounded.

What we're doing matters. Growing food with intention. Paying attention to the soil. Raising animals with care. Striving to produce something that truly nourishes people.

There's something powerful about knowing the work of our hands can help heal others.

I don't know exactly where this road leads, but after this day, I feel deeply encouraged. Inspired. Steady in the calling to keep going and to help anyone who's willing to take a step forward.

Thank you for believing in this vision. Thank you for showing up. Thank you for becoming part of something bigger than any one of us.

Here's to continuing the journey together.

— Triple F Ranch & Farming Forest



The Farmer Ag Network and its regenerative farming coalition partners continue to inspire and ground the Central Valley's agricultural community with their commitment to rebuilding healthy soil, strengthening rural economies, and fostering feasible practices that nourish both people and planet. Their work creates space for collaboration, practical learning, and a shared vision of a more resilient future for farming.

At the Triple F Ranch 2nd Annual Regenerative On-Farm Field Day, I felt that spirit immediately. As I looked around the room, I saw growers, researchers, advocates, students, service providers, and community members—all drawn together by a sincere commitment to building healthier, more sustainable agricultural practices. Conversations buzzed with curiosity, learning flowed freely, and a shared concern for clean air, clean water, fertile soil, and strong communities linked people from every walk of life.

What struck me most was the tone. Instead of the divisions that so often shape agricultural discussions, I saw genuine cooperation taking root. People listened to one another, built on each other's ideas, and explored solutions side by side. New collaborations sprouted among these diverse partners, and those relationships continue to spark fresh innovation and regenerative approaches across the sector. That sense of unity offered something rare: real hope that meaningful improvements in agriculture aren't distant ideals but changes already beginning to unfold.

The Field Day showed what's possible when people come together with a common purpose: a Central Valley agricultural system rooted in regeneration, collaboration, and long-term wellbeing. The diversity in the room wasn't just encouraging, it was catalytic. Each perspective added a new way of seeing the challenges ahead, and together those viewpoints sparked more creative, connected, and practical solutions than anyone could generate alone. It was a reminder that when we choose cooperation over division, we unlock the resilience and ingenuity needed to transform our fields, our food, our communities, and our future. What I witnessed wasn't just hope—it was proof that a healthier agri-food system is already taking shape, built by people willing to learn together, innovate together, and grow together.

Mandy Breuer [Director of Talent Programs](#)

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Submitted by Sandy Yager

The Story Behind Yager Farm's Commitment to Regenerative Farming

About ten years ago, our family stood together in the middle of our almond orchard and looked out across the rows of trees. The orchard floor was bare. The soil was dry and lifeless, as it had been for generations under conventional farming practices.

In that quiet moment, we felt something stirring deep within us — a tug to do things differently.

We began asking ourselves difficult questions.

Was there a better way to care for this land?

Were we truly being good stewards of what God had entrusted to us?

We started to feel strongly that we were being called to heal the land and to rethink the way we farmed.

At the same time, our family was facing another challenge. Several of us were struggling with chronic health conditions, and we began searching for ways to restore our health naturally. As we learned more about nutrition and holistic health, we encountered a simple but powerful idea: food is medicine.

That realization changed everything.

We began to see a connection between the way food is grown and the health of the people who eat it. If our food system was dependent on heavy chemical use and depleted soils, could that be part of the reason so many people were struggling with their health?

Those questions pushed us to start learning.

At first, we explored transitioning our almonds to organic production. But the more we studied soil biology, ecosystem health, and regenerative agriculture, the more we realized that organic alone wasn't the full answer we were searching for.

We didn't just want to use fewer chemicals.

We wanted to restore harmony to the land.

Our vision became bigger than simply changing inputs. We wanted to rebuild a living system where soil, plants, insects, microbes, and animals could work together the way nature intended — reducing or even eliminating the need for synthetic chemicals altogether.

Our first step was simple.

We planted cover crops between the rows of our almond trees.

That first season was transformative.

Where the orchard floor had once been dry and barren, lush green rows of plants began to grow. The diversity of grasses and legumes brought life back to the soil. Beneficial insects returned. The land felt alive again.

The beauty of those green rows was more than just visual. It felt like water to our souls.

After just one season, we knew we were on the right path.

From there, we continued implementing regenerative practices and learning everything we could about soil health, biodiversity, and ecosystem balance. The deeper we went, the more convinced we became that healing the land was not only possible — it was essential.

As our journey unfolded, we began searching for other farmers who felt the same calling.

Just after the pandemic, we started opening up our home and our farm to conversations. Sometimes we met for lunch around our kitchen table. Other times we walked the orchards and talked in the fields. Farmers came who were already experimenting with regenerative practices, and others came simply because they were curious.

These gatherings became something special.

They were places where farmers could ask questions, share struggles, and dream about a different future for agriculture — one that restored the land rather than depleting it.

It was through one of these dinners that we met Debbie and Don Thomas, and a friendship quickly formed.

Like us, they shared a deep concern for the future of farming and a belief that agriculture could be both productive and restorative.

Those conversations, friendships, and shared hopes eventually helped inspire the formation of an organization dedicated to supporting farmers who want to move toward regenerative practices.

Even today, agriculture faces tremendous challenges. Farmers are navigating economic uncertainty, changing markets, water limitations, and increasing pressures from every direction.

But through it all, we remain convinced of one thing:

Healing the land is one of the most important things we can do for the health of our world.

Healthy soil produces healthier food.

Healthy food supports healthier people.

And healthy farms create stronger communities.

Our journey into regenerative agriculture began with a simple question and a desire to be better stewards.

Today, that journey continues — alongside a growing community of farmers, educators, and organizations who believe that the future of agriculture can be both abundant and regenerative.

And it all started with the decision to look at the land differently.

Submitted By John Warmerdam

Like a lot of folks I heard about RA, and went to YouTube university, where John Kempf was king, circa 2018. A deep dive got deeper, and against my better judgement I joined Twitter to learn more. One evening in fall 2023 I replied to a JK post and another tweeter did as well, and noticed he lived in Hanford as well. I messaged him and invited him to lunch, which felt a bit weird but decidedly comfortable to meet, in real life, someone on the same journey. The only other person I'd met in that space previously was Vern Peterson, and I suggested our next get together should involve him and his growers. That was spring 2024, and this time seven people got lunch, and I got to meet Steven Cardoza for the first time. Steven had been one of about two dozen folks I had spoken with for at least an hour talking shop about RA. We planned a future meeting at Vern's packing shed and expanded the network to 27, much of which time was spent person to person meet and greets with folks in that space who thought they were the only one. Early in 2025, I was invited, along with Vern and Steven, to a No Regrets meeting at Kearney Ag Station, and realized the Venn diagram, so to speak, had little overlap, as all but one other attendee and us three were part of the recent 27. I spoke with Hannah, and met Debbie and Don, among others, and talked about joining forces in the future. Soon after I spoke with JK at that year's Burroughs Farm event and shared we planned another farmer meeting, this time at Kearney, that would be much larger. He gave a pause and said that, just maybe, he could fit it in his schedule and join us. I invited the contacts I'd gathered, 100+ folks, and promised JK would be there, but in the end had to let them know he couldn't make it. We ended up with around 100 folks (you would know the final number better than me). Debbie helped with sign ins, Hannah with logistics, Vern with lunch, and we had a number of speakers, including JK via zoom. After there was a lot of talk about "are you a 501C3?" And the like, but to this point it was a contact spreadsheet and seat of our pants planning. I was happy when Debbie and Hannah proposed an official group with a board, legal status, etc and that is when the Farmer Ag Network was officially born.

John

Final Reflections and Closing Summary

A Year of Roots, Renewal, and Regeneration

The Farmer Ag Network's inaugural year has been a testament to what becomes possible when growers, advocates, and community partners choose collaboration over isolation. What began with a handful of conversations around kitchen tables, farm fields, and community gatherings has grown into a vibrant regional movement committed to restoring land, strengthening agricultural resilience, and supporting the wellbeing of the San Joaquin Valley.

Throughout this report, we have shared stories of individual courage, community-built momentum, and the steady emergence of a shared vision. From early meetups and regenerative field days to personal reflections on healing soil and strengthening community, each contribution demonstrates that transformation begins with people willing to learn together and take meaningful steps forward.

This year also marked the development of a forward-looking strategy for the Valley. The Farmer Ag Network embraced "Dual Resilience" ensuring that every practice improves both ecological health and financial viability. The Network launched efforts to elevate storytelling, reduce barriers to information, and reimagine water not as a constraint but as an incentive for growers. Emerging partnerships explored the connection between soil health and human health, laying groundwork for future "Food is Medicine" initiatives and opening new pathways for community impact.

At the heart of these achievements is a growing recognition that agriculture is more than an industry it is a living network of people, soil, water, and relationships. The successes of this first year remind us that regenerative agriculture is not merely a set of practices, but a cultural shift powered by curiosity, cooperation, and hope.

As we continue our inaugural year, we celebrate the momentum we've built together. The seeds planted through dialogue, experimentation, and shared vision are already taking root. The path ahead is full of possibility, and the Farmer Ag Network stands ready to continue fostering the connections, innovations, and resilience our region needs.

Together, we are cultivating a healthier future for our land, our communities, and the generations to come.

