

SBALT REPORT

Second grant awarded for Phase II of Foster Ranch Conservation Easement

We have great news for farmland protection and fans of Pinnacle Organically Grown! SBALT has secured funding



from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Agricultural Conservation Easement Program to match a state grant for Phase II of the Foster Ranch conservation easement in San Juan Valley. With funding now in place, SBALT can move forward to preserve an additional 24 acres of Phil Foster Ranch, home of the popular Saturday morning farmstand. We are grateful to the USDA-NRCS, the California Department of Conservation, and Phil and Katherine Foster for the opportunity to ensure that the entire 51-acre Foster Ranch will remain in agriculture forever.

If you love these agricultural lands as much as we do, there are several ways to support SBALT this season... The San Benito Commu-



nity Gives Auction takes place November 13th-17th, 2020. SBALT's eight auction items celebrate the agriculture and open space beauty of our County: overnight stays at Paicines Ranch and Rancho Tranquillo, meat packages from Pasture Chick Ranch and Paicines Ranch, a horseback riding experience from our only local dude ranch, and more! Bidder registration opens November 2nd at givesanbenito.org/auction. Please tell your friends to register early and bid on these unique items in support of agricultural land conservation.

If you are on the mailing list, look for our Year-End Appeal in your virtual or physical mailbox and make a generous donation to keep our organization marching forward into 2021. You can also contribute anytime through SBALT's website www.sanbenitolandtrust.org. Thank you for your support! ■



Phil Foster displays healthy orchard soil to NRCS Easement Program Specialist, Elizabeth Palmer, on a grant review site visit. *Photo by Cathy Summa-Wolfe*