

# Farm Stewards

Integrating the Science of Ecological Restoration  
With the Craft of Sustainable Farming

## Statement of Qualifications



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## Company Overview

Farm Stewards works with farmers, ranchers, winegrowers, and other rural landowners and land managers. Farm Steward's mission is to restore and enhance the ecological health of farmland and the surrounding landscape.

Each piece of land is unique. After working with clients to identify their unique goals and priorities, Farm Stewards creates plans that will provide the detailed and specific information needed to achieve these goals. Plans may be simple and single-project, such as creating a design for hedgerows to attract pollinators and beneficial insects, or they may be comprehensive and complex, such as conducting a complete assessment of natural resources and potential restoration and stewardship projects along with implementation plans for these projects, or creating a comprehensive crop plan that integrates multiple annual and perennial crops and livestock.

Farm Stewards can also manage the implementation of these plans, from creating working budgets, providing subcontractors or training field staff in project implementation, sourcing plant materials, handling paperwork for grant applications and certification inspections, and conducting regular project monitoring and providing maintenance & monitoring reports. Farm Stewards can also assist with public outreach and marketing efforts, from creating articles for blogs, websites, or wine club newsletters, to leading tours, classes or workshops that highlight land stewardship efforts on the property.

Choices in farming practices and land stewardship reflect the land owner's values: Farm Stewards can help with the expression of these values. Sustainable farming can restore and enhance the ecological and economic health of farms, communities, and the surrounding landscape. Farm Stewards creates a roadmap to achieving these goals.

## Services

Farm Stewards offers design, planning and consultations in ecological restoration, sustainable farming, and land stewardship. Services include:

- Ecological health and sustainability assessments of agricultural lands and farming operations
- Identification of potential habitat restoration and biodiversity enhancement projects
- Designs and implementation plans for hedgerows, insectaries, habitat borders and wildlife corridors
- Restoration and habitat enhancement plans for non-crop areas (creeks, ponds, forests, upland areas, etc.)
- Plans for increasing crop diversity by adding annual or perennial crops (orchards, woodlots, culinary and medicinal herb gardens, cut flowers, vegetables)
- Plans for integration of livestock (i.e. sheep, poultry)
- Soil improvement plans
- Non-chemical pest and invasive species management plans
- Plans for meeting certification requirements (organic, biodynamic, etc.)
- Monitoring reports and adaptive management plans for agricultural properties
- Public outreach highlighting sustainable farming practices (tours, classes or workshops, articles for wine club newsletters, blogs & websites, staff training, etc.)

Farm Stewards creates plans and designs for projects, and can also assist with the implementation of projects through plant acquisition, management of subcontractor labor, training of field or vineyard crews, and ongoing maintenance and monitoring reports. Farm Stewards can also assist landowners with completing paperwork for grant-funded projects (i.e. EQIP, WHIP) or interacting with public agencies or funders on behalf of the landowners (i.e. Resource Conservation Districts, NRCS staff).

## Owner's Biography

After completing a PhD in Neuroscience at MIT at age 26, Rose knew one thing for sure: she didn't want to be a neuroscientist. Oops.

Following a circuitous path that led through an ecological field station in the rain forest of Costa Rica, an island in Nicaragua's Lake Omotepe, and an organic coffee farm in Guatemala, Rose returned to California and studied organic farming at the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems at the University of California, Santa Cruz. After completing a 6-month residential apprenticeship in all aspects of organic farming and gardening, Rose earned a Certificate in Ecological Horticulture. Rose then had the opportunity to remain at the Center for an additional year, as the Propagation Manager, responsible for managing the greenhouses and growing all the plant starts for the 20-acre Farm & Garden. She then spent a year growing organic vegetables and cut flowers at the renowned organic gardens at Fetzer Vineyard's Valley Oaks Ranch.

Rose spent the next 7 years managing Ecological Restoration programs at Circuit Rider Productions, a non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration and enhancement of human and ecological systems. Her responsibilities included managing the Native Plants Nursery, the Russian River Giant Reed Removal and Habitat Restoration Program (a \$1.3 million-dollar grant-funded effort to remove Giant Reed from the Russian River Watershed), and managing the staff, budgets and contracts of the Ecological Restoration program at CRP.

Rose founded Farm Stewards to unite her passion and experience in the areas of sustainable farming and ecological restoration, and to make this experience and passion available to her clients, the land owners and land managers of Northern California, who work each day to steward the land under their care.

In addition to running Farm Stewards, Rose currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer for the North Coast Chapter of the Community Alliance with Family Farmers, and has served as the Program Coordinator for the Habitat Restoration Project of the Napa-Solano Audubon Society.

## Projects & Clients

### Bounty Farm, Petaluma Bounty, Petaluma, CA

Farm Stewards worked with this non-profit urban educational farm *pro bono*, donating time to create a design for hedgerow and insectary plantings, and creating a revegetation plan for a drainage ditch in order to stabilize the bank and reduce runoff. Farm Stewards acquired plants for the project and led a volunteer planting day to install the plants.

### Foxwhelp Farms, Healdsburg, CA

Farm Stewards created a restoration plan for a NRCS/EQIP funded creek bank stabilization project on a farm & orchard in Dry Creek Valley, sourced the plants, conducted field design and layout, and trained the planting crew. The following year, we designed and laid out a hedgerow adjacent to Foxwhelp's orchard.

### Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District / Community Alliance with Family Farmers: Insectaries for Pollinator and Farm Biodiversity Project, Green Valley Creek & Blucher Creek Watersheds, Sonoma County, CA

Farm Stewards is working with GRRCD & CAFF on a project to install hedgerows and insectaries on rural farming properties in Sonoma County. The project includes leading workshops for interested landowners describing the benefits and design of hedgerows and beneficial insect habitat, assisting with grant development, creating technical plans and designs for hedgerows on 6 properties in western Sonoma County, and overseeing field implementation of hedgerow projects. The project has received grant funding from the NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant program for implementation in 2009-2012. Participating farms include: Singing Frogs Farm, Green Valley Vineyards, Dierke's Enterprises, Three Ox Farm, Gabriel Farm, and Joy Road Ranch.

### Kinsella Vineyards, Healdsburg, CA

Farm Stewards developed a revegetation & farmscaping plan for an ephemeral creek and vineyard pond. Incorporating wetland, riparian, and dryland ecotypes, this plan has restored a once heavily landscaped and irrigated area into a natural, yet aesthetically pleasing and ecologically functional component of the property.

### Matthiason Vineyards, Napa, CA

Farm Stewards designed an NRCS/EQIP-funded hedgerow for a small vineyard just north of the city of Napa.

Napa-Solano Audubon Habitat Restoration Project, Napa County, CA

Farm Stewards partnered with the Napa-Solano Audubon Society to hold educational workshops on habitat restoration of agricultural properties for vineyard owners and managers in Napa County.

Preston of Dry Creek, Healdsburg, CA

Since 2005, Farm Stewards has designed and managed the implementation of plans to create hedgerows, wildlife corridors, habitat borders, and riparian restoration projects at Preston of Dry Creek, an organic farm and vineyard. Over 6,000 plants of more than 50 different species have been installed in hedgerows and habitat borders, covering 4 acres on the 185-acre farm. Farm Stewards has also designed and implemented a 1-acre woodlot, a medicinal herb garden, and a livestock integration plan that resulted in the integration of a flock of Katahdin sheep on the property. Farm Stewards also created the vegetable garden plan for a 1 acre market garden for the 2010 season.

Robert Sinskey Vineyards, Napa, CA

Farm Stewards is creating, managing, and implementing plans to steward the natural resources and conserve the ecological health and sustainability of the land owned and farmed by RSV, an organic and biodynamically-certified vineyard in the Carneros region of Napa, CA. After creating a comprehensive assessment of the ecological resources of the 8 RSV properties, Farm Stewards has created and is overseeing the implementation of various restoration and biodiversity projects, including hedgerows on 3 ranches, and a 5-acre upland, pond and creek restoration project on one property.

Salmon Creek School, Occidental, CA

Farm Stewards designed a pollinator hedgerow and native landscaping for the school grounds, as well as teaching lessons on pollinator habitat and cultural uses of native plants for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

West Coast Watershed, Sonoma County, CA

As a subcontractor and partner with West Coast Watershed, Farm Stewards created a report entitled *Climate Change and Agriculture in the North Coast of California: Adaptation & Opportunities* for the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.





## Workshops, Classes &amp; Presentations

*Conservation Biocontrol & Ecological Pest Management.* Organic Gardening class, Shone Farm, Santa Rosa Junior College, September 2010.

*Creating Pollinator Habitat on Farms & Vineyards.* West Lake RCD/NRCS/North Coast RC&D/Partners for Sustainable Pollination workshop, Lakeport, February 2010.

*Ecologically Sustainable Vineyards: Using Hedgerows and Other Conservation Plantings to Create Wildlife Habitat and Enhance Biodiversity in the Dry Creek Valley.* Winegrowers of Dry Creek Valley workshop, Healdsburg, November 2009.

*Hedgerows for Habitat: Planning and Establishing Hedgerows in Farms and Vineyards.* Sotoyome RCD/North Coast RC&D/Partners for Sustainable Pollination workshop, Santa Rosa, October 2009.

*Native Plant Propagation: Growing Your Own Plants for Habitat Restoration Projects.* Napa-Solano Audubon Habitat Restoration Project workshop, Napa, July 2009

*Hedgerows for Habitat: Planning and Establishing Hedgerows in Vineyards.* Napa-Solano Audubon Habitat Restoration Project workshop, Napa, June 2009

*Ecological Pest Management.* Sonoma County Farm Trails Breakfast Club Meeting, Windsor, April 2009

*Plants for Pollinators.* Gold Ridge RCD/North Coast RC&D/Partners for Sustainable Pollination/Xerces Society workshop, Valley Ford, April 2009

*Hedgerows: The Benefits and Techniques of Installing Native Hedgerows on Farmland.* Community Alliance with Family Farmers/Gold Ridge RCD/Sotoyome RCD workshop, Healdsburg, November 2008

*Farm-Ecology: How Can Farmers and Restoration Ecologists Work Together to Restore and Enhance Agroecosystems?* Society for Ecological Restoration conference workshop, Healdsburg, August 2008

References

Laurel Anderson, Garden Coordinator, Salmon Creek School

John Dierke, Owner, Dierke's Enterprises

Karen Gaffney, Stewardship Program Manager, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

Terry Harrison, President, North Coast Chapter, Community Alliance with Family Farmers, and Owner, Foxwhelp Farm

Brittany Heck, Project Manager, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District

Noelle Johnson, Conservation Planner, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District

Paul Kaiser, Owner, Singing Frogs Farm

Kathy Kellison, Executive Director, Partners for Sustainable Pollination

Wendy Krupnik, Instructor, Santa Rosa Junior College

Lou Preston, Owner, Preston of Dry Creek

Amy Rice-Jones, Farm Manager, Petaluma Bounty Farm

Rocky Thompson, Restoration Planner, Center for Social and Environmental Stewardship

Catherine Younger, Owner, Green Valley Vineyards

Debby Zygielbaum, Vineyard Manager, Robert Sinskey Vineyards

## Memberships and Partner Organizations

Farm Stewards works in partnership with:

- Baelin, Inc.
- Community Alliance with Family Farmers
- Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
- Napa-Solano Audubon Society
- North Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council
- Partners for Sustainable Pollination
- Sotoyome Resource Conservation District
- West Coast Watershed

Farm Stewards is a member of:

- American Farmland Trust
- Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association
- Business Alliance for Local Living Economies
- California Association of Winegrape Growers
- California Certified Organic Farmers
- California Native Grasslands Association
- California Native Plant Society
- California Invasive Plants Council
- Community Alliance with Family Farmers
- Ecological Farming Association
- Holistic Management International
- Slow Foods Russian River
- Society for Ecological Restoration
- Sonoma County Farm Trails
- Wild Farm Alliance
- Xerces Society