



GROWING
our future

IMPACT REPORT 2023-2024

ADVANCING *a collective vision*



DEAR FRIENDS,

Because of you, we have a lot to celebrate. This past year we have been tremendously successful in our efforts to protect Marin's invaluable farmland. Slowing down to appreciate these milestones, we feel energized for the important work that lies ahead.

This year marked a watershed moment for MALT. Thanks to your continued commitment, MALT and its many partners have now **invested over \$100 million in farmland preservation** throughout Marin County. This achievement underscores the collective power of our community in safeguarding the landscapes that define our region's character and sustain our local food system.

The past year was particularly productive towards expanding our land protection impact in Marin County. We successfully secured four new agricultural conservation easements:

**BIVISTA RIDGE
RANCH** 592 acres

**CORDA FAMILY
RANCH** 903 acres

**HICKS MOUNTAIN
BELVEDERE RANCH** 344 acres

**SPRING VALLEY
RANCH** 1,179 acres

We're also excited to share that this past year we launched a new small grants program. This new program, available for all Marin County farmers and ranchers, funds projects that preserve agriculture, protect biodiversity, and build climate resilience.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you who has contributed to MALT's success. Your support allows us to continue this vital work, preserving not just land, but opportunity for future generations. Whether through financial donations, volunteer efforts, or simply spreading the word about our mission, you play a crucial role in keeping Marin's agricultural heritage alive and thriving.

With deepest gratitude,



Lily Verdone, *Executive Director*



Tamara Hicks, *Board Chair*

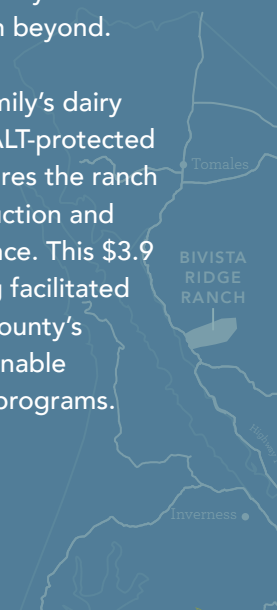


BIVISTA RIDGE *Ranch*

[**592 ACRES**] Perched along the shore of Tomales Bay, the 592-acre Bivista Ridge Ranch is a coastal gem now protected by a MALT agricultural conservation easement. From its windswept hilltops, one can marvel at the dual panorama of Tomales Bay's serene waters and the vast Pacific Ocean beyond.

The ranch is part of the Taylor family's dairy operation, which includes the MALT-protected Bivalve Dairy. The easement ensures the ranch remains dedicated to dairy production and enhances regional climate resilience. This \$3.9 million easement, with all funding facilitated by MALT, was funded by Marin County's Measure A and California's Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation programs.

Discover more: malt.org/bivista



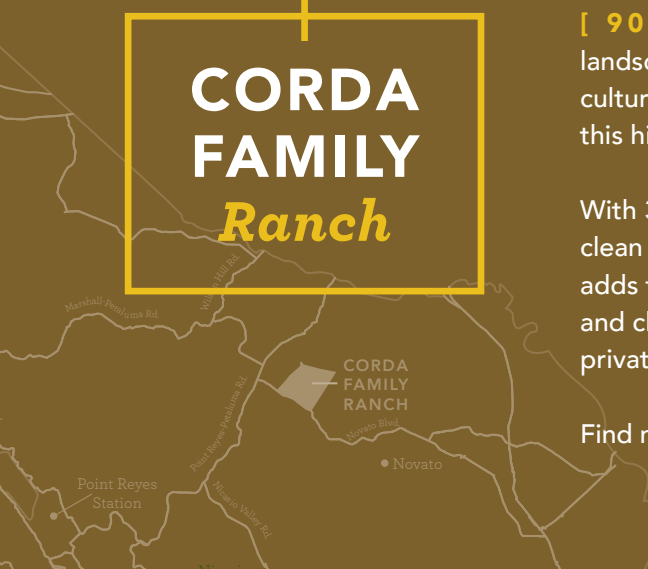


**CORDA
FAMILY
*Ranch***

[903 ACRES] The 903-acre Corda Family Ranch, an iconic Marin County landscape along Novato Boulevard, is now protected by MALT through an agricultural conservation easement. From its coastal grasslands to dense oak woodlands, this historic property has been stewarded by the Corda family for over a century.

With 3.85 miles of creekside habitat, the ranch plays a vital role in protecting clean water for Novato residents and wildlife alike. This \$5 million easement adds to 14,383 contiguous acres of MALT-protected lands, supporting biodiversity and climate resilience. Funding came equally from Marin County's Measure A and private donations to MALT.

Find more: malt.org/corda-family-ranch



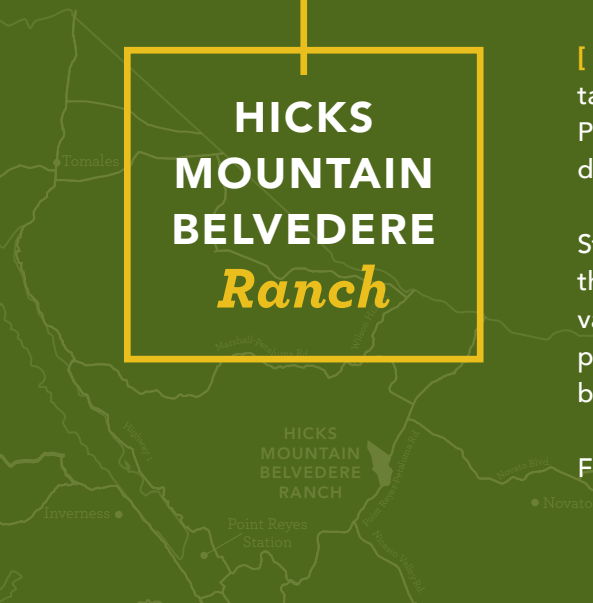


**HICKS
MOUNTAIN
BELVEDERE**
Ranch

[**344 ACRES**] Hicks Mountain Belvedere Ranch, home to one of Marin's tallest peaks, is now forever safeguarded by MALT. This iconic landscape along Point Reyes-Petaluma Road showcases diverse habitats from redwood groves to dense chaparral, offering sanctuary for wildlife while supporting food production.

Stewarded by the Corda-Dellinger family for over a century, the ranch is known for the Hicks Mountain Hens pasture-raised egg operation. MALT's agricultural conservation easement ensures this land will forever remain dedicated to agriculture while preserving critical wildlife corridors. This \$800,000 easement was funded equally between Marin County's Measure A and private donations to MALT.

Find more: malt.org/hicks-mountain



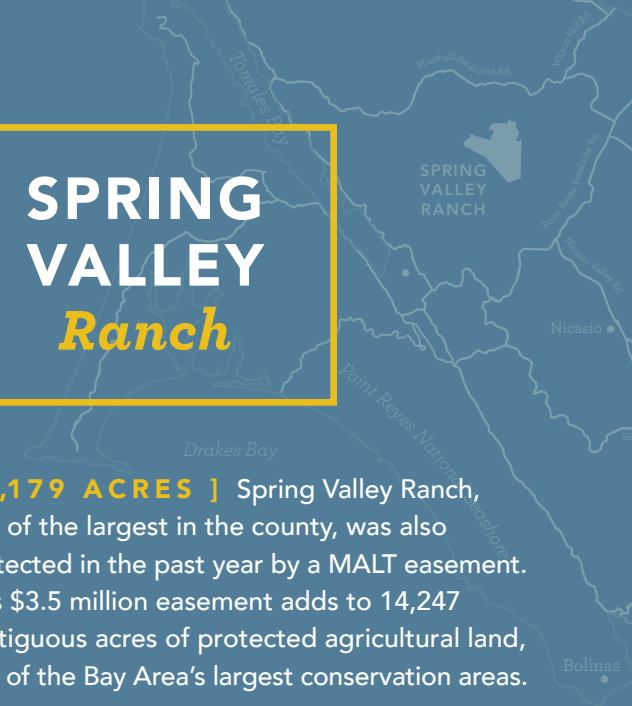


SPRING VALLEY *Ranch*

[**1,179 ACRES**] Spring Valley Ranch, one of the largest in the county, was also protected in the past year by a MALT easement. This \$3.5 million easement adds to 14,247 contiguous acres of protected agricultural land, one of the Bay Area's largest conservation areas.

MALT's easement ensures the ranch remains dedicated to agriculture while preserving vital wildlife corridors. Over 200 acres lie within the Critical Habitat Linkage identified by the Conservation Lands Network, supporting species movement across the region and the resilience of our local ecosystem. Funding for this easement was also split equally between Marin County's Measure A and private donations to MALT.

Discover more: malt.org/spring-valley



BIG IMPACT,
small grants





IN AUGUST OF 2023, MALT LAUNCHED A NEW SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM TO FURTHER PROTECT THE FUTURE OF FARMLAND IN MARIN COUNTY.

This past year, we held two funding rounds awarding \$400,000 for projects ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 that preserve agriculture, invest in biodiversity, connect our community, and build climate resilience.

This new program builds on MALT's existing funding opportunities. Since its inception in 2002, our Stewardship Assistance Program (SAP) has granted more than \$2.5 million to land holders with MALT easements for conservation practices that improve water quality and soil health. We've structured this new program as a complimentary funding opportunity available to all Marin County agricultural producers.

We've also modeled this new program around learnings from the emergency launch of our Drought Resilience and Water Security (DRAWS) initiative. Over a two year period beginning in 2021, we committed more than \$829,363 to 70 water infrastructure projects that built long-term resilience to address the growing impacts of climate change.

Over our more than 40 year history, we have learned the value of well-targeted and well-timed land stewardship efforts that address both the needs of our community and improve the health of our local landscapes. This new small grants program is a testament to our commitment to a practical approach, rooted in an on-the-ground understanding.

Our inaugural rounds of small grant funding focused on *Building Climate Resilience* and enhancing *Biodiversity in Agricultural Working Lands*. The impacts of these small-scale, targeted investments are already bearing fruit. *Story continued on the following pages.*

Learn more: malt.org/small-grants



ROUND 1

Building Climate Resilience

As weather patterns and climate trends continue to shift, farmers and ranchers in Marin County face longer heat waves, increased drought, frequent flooding, and prolonged fire seasons. The goal of this grant cycle was to provide resources to help agriculturalists implement climate smart practices that delivered long-term solutions.



CORDA RANCH, NOVATO | \$40,000

Implementing aerial seeding of native grasses to enhance forage quality and support wildlife on steep terrain.



JJ'S FAMILY DAIRY, CHILENO VALLEY | \$40,000

Upgrading water infrastructure to improve cattle access and support carbon farming, reducing soil disturbance.



RED HILL RANCH, HICKS VALLEY | \$40,000

Planting trees for livestock shade and wildlife habitat, and adding fencing to optimize grazing and boost carbon capture.



TOMALES BAY PASTURES AT MILLERTON CREEK RANCH, MARSHALL | \$40,000

Purchasing a solar-powered chicken tractor to streamline egg production and reduce environmental impact.



WESTVIEW PETALUMA RANCH, SAN ANTONIO | \$40,000

Installing fencing and water storage to enhance herd management and promote climate-beneficial grazing.



ROUND 2

Biodiversity in Agricultural Working Lands

Biodiversity supports our basic needs, underpins global human health, and drives everything from fresh water to healthy soils to food security. The goal of this grants cycle was to provide resources to help farmers and ranchers promote biodiversity in their working lands.



DOLCINI JERSEY DAIRY, NICASIO | \$40,000

Restoring native grasslands by removing invasive species, seeding native grasses, adding compost, and improving water systems to boost biodiversity and pasture health.



EAMES RANCH, SAN ANTONIO | \$35,000

Repairing degraded soils with regenerative agriculture. The grant supports wildlife-friendly fencing and rotational grazing to control invasive species.



MARIN COAST RANCH, TOMALES | \$35,000

Reclaiming waste wool by investing in a wool pelletizer to create a soil amendment, enhancing grass growth, water retention, and carbon sequestration.



SPALETTA BEEF RANCH, VALLEY FORD | \$45,000

Building wildlife habitat by restoring a sediment-filled pond, installing wildlife-friendly fencing, and planting native trees to enhance biodiversity.



SCHELL/NIMAN RANCH, BOLINAS | \$45,000

Safeguarding western monarch butterflies by expanding overwintering habitat, removing invasive species, and improving water infrastructure for biodiversity and livestock.

Your **IMPACT**

Impact since 1980

58,739

ACRES PROTECTED

97

**CONSERVATION
EASEMENTS**

\$111,569,595

**INVESTED IN PROTECTING
MARIN FARMS & RANCHES**

\$2,562,078

**INVESTED IN
STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS**

To date, MALT farms & ranches support

47 beef cattle operations

20 dairy operations

2 goat operations

12 sheep operations

6 wool producers

9 fruit & veggie producers

6 egg producers

5 artisan cheesemakers

1 salt producer

4 pig operations





Fiscal year 2023–2024 accomplishments

3,018

acres protected

\$8,500,010

granted in public funding
for land protection

\$296,754

invested in Stewardship
Assistance Program

\$172,859

invested in Drought Resilience
& Water Security Initiative

\$400,000

awarded for small grants program

\$529,613

total investments in land stewardship

13

public hikes

1,735

event attendees

61

volunteers



Financials

We are proud to report another successful year at MALT. This progress toward our vision of a thriving and inclusive agricultural community in a healthy and diverse natural environment would not be possible without your support and commitment. Thank you for your belief in our mission of protecting Marin’s agricultural land for agricultural use — your support has a lasting impact.

Learn more: malt.org/financials



REVENUE

Contributions/bequests	\$3,725,642
Government grants	\$8,618,164
Program and other income	\$322,837
Investment revenue	\$2,871,075
TOTAL REVENUE	\$15,537,718

EXPENSES

Land protection—easement purchases	\$13,289,000
Stewardship and community programs	\$2,473,554
Total program	\$15,762,554
Fundraising	\$1,956,679
Management & support services	\$1,293,222
Total fundraising and administration	\$3,249,901
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$19,012,454

**This report reflects unaudited financials from July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024*



About MALT

Marin Agricultural Land Trust is a nonprofit organization created in 1980 to protect and steward Marin County farmland. Some of the Bay Area's most highly acclaimed meats, dairy products, fiber, and organic crops are produced on farmland protected by MALT's 97 agricultural conservation easements, totaling more than 58,739 acres.

To learn about Marin's working farms and ranches and the food they produce, visit malt.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tamara Hicks, Chair
Diana Hagan, Vice Chair
Lisa Poncia, Secretary
David Schrader, Treasurer
Kristine Ball
Marcia Barinaga
Barbara Boucke
Guido Frosini
Andrew Giacomini
Lynne Heinrich
Jim Jensen
Tim Kehoe
Iris Kim
Caitlin Landesberg
Paul Martin
Molly Myerson
Robert McGee
Kristina Phipps
Andrew Riesenfeld
Vivien Straus

STAFF

Kirsten Arnett
Courtney Biryukov
Tristan Brenner
Jennifer Maude Carlin
Matt Dolkas
Amber Driscoll
Scott Dunbar
Bronte Edwards
Lauren Faccinto
Peter Fugazzotto
Colleen Hogan
Cindy Homen
Kathie Kearley-Green
Harriet Lehmann
Liam McNally
Zach Mendes
Anne Nowlin
Hillary Pollaro
Lily Verdone
Sydney Weisbach
Karisma Wilson

The MALT Impact Report is published by Marin Agricultural Land Trust, a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

Editor: Matt Dolkas

Graphic Design: shirleycreative.com

Printer: ThirdBay Letterpress Inc.

Photos: malt.org/photo-credits

Printed on recycled paper containing soy inks.





Post Office Box 809
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

(415) 663-1158 | farmland@malt.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DOUBLE *your* IMPACT

Your gift to MALT before year-end will be matched, up to \$100,000, doubling your support for local farmland. Help preserve Marin's farms and ranches and ensure a resilient future. Join today!

malt.org/give

