MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

Post Office Box 809
Point Reyes Station
California 94956
T 415 663-1158
F 415 663-1099
www.malt.org

*** MALT ofrece asistencia con la aplicación en español. Por favor comuníquese con** lfaccinto@malt.org **(415-663-1158 ext. 302) para reservar una cita para que el personal de MALT le brinde asistencia.**
MALT is able to provide spanish translation assistance by appointment. Please contact lfaccinto@malt.org **(415-663-1158 ext. 302)** to be connected with MALT staff for assistance.

Small Grants Program Guidelines
Round 6

Executive Summary

Marin Agricultural Land Trust
Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT) is a nonprofit land trust created in 1980 by a coalition of ranchers and environmentalists to permanently protect Marin County farmland. Some of the Bay Area's most highly acclaimed dairy and cheese products, grass-fed meats, and organic crops are produced on farmland protected by MALT. MALT has permanently protected over 59,000 acres of West Marin's diverse mosaic of coastal grasslands, oak woodlands, rangelands, and pastoral open space through 99 agricultural conservation easements.

Small Grants Program Overview
MALT's small grants program has awarded $1.2M to date, building on the more than $4 million distributed to Marin County farmers and ranchers through our Stewardship Assistance Program (SAP) and Drought Resilience and Water Security (DRAWS) initiative. Together, these programs enhance best management practices and stewardship on the county's natural and working lands. We are excited to launch new rounds of small grants that advance MALT's vision of a thriving and inclusive agricultural community in a healthy and diverse natural environment.

The program funds projects that preserve agriculture, protect biodiversity, connect our community, and build climate resilience. It prioritizes agricultural and operational diversity and encourages climate-smart conservation practices that increase agricultural productivity, protect soil and water quality, and strengthen the long-term viability of both public and private lands across Marin County.

This year's round places a special emphasis on Next-Gen proposals: projects that address the real and pressing question of how Marin's farms and ranches will continue to thrive in a changing environment for generations to come. Next-Gen projects tackle agricultural viability head-on through succession and ranch management planning, operational diversification, new technologies, water resilience improvements, and climate-smart practices.

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All funded projects also deliver a broader public benefit by sustaining agriculture in Marin County. This includes benefits to the greater community including jobs and revenue to the local economy, as well as locally produced food, fiber, and other agricultural products. Protection of agriculturally productive land in Marin County also helps maintain open space, scenic views, and wildlife corridors. Given that healthy soils are the foundation for productive farms and ranches, Marin's working lands are dependent upon implementing smarter strategies to conserve soils and associated habitat, like grasslands, riparian forests, and other aquatic ecosystems such as creeks, ponds, wetlands, and groundwater, which all provide crucial habitat for native species.

Grant Round 6

We will accept project proposals that support MALT's mission to protect and steward Marin's farms and ranches for the benefit of all.

Applications are accepted online through the Foundant online grant portal available through this link: https://malt.org/small-grants/

Grant Impact

Grants will promote agricultural and conservation practices that protect and steward agricultural land through supporting a healthy local food system, expanding environmental benefits, and building climate resilience. Projects should support economic stability by contributing to the maintenance of existing agricultural production. This round, added consideration will be given to proposals with a Next-Gen focus — projects that address the real and pressing question of how Marin's farms and ranches continue to thrive in a changing environment, for generations to come. For instance, succession and ranch management planning, operational diversification, new technologies, water resilience improvements, and climate-smart practices that strengthen the long-term sustainability of Marin's working lands. Proposals should demonstrate a commitment to operational and agricultural viability, and should have an ecological benefit to the soil and water quality that Marin's farms and ranches depend on.

Example Projects *Could* Include:

- Fencing
    - Cross or interior
    - Exclusionary
        - Riparian
        - Springs
        - Ponds

  Types of fences may include:
    - Permanent
        - Smooth wire
        - Barbed wire
        - Woven wire

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  - Temporary electric
  - Permanent electric
  - Virtual (including subscriptions and towers, if necessary)

- Water Development Improvements and Modernization
  - Spring improvements
  - Water storage
  - Troughs
  - Pipelines
  - Pumps, including solar
  - Irrigation reels
  - Rain catchment systems

- Landscape Restoration and Rangeland Management
  - Rangeland and pasture seeding
  - Tree planting
  - Riparian planting
  - Silvopasture
  - Hedgerows
  - Soil amendments
    - Compost
    - Lime
    - Gypsum
    - Biochar
  - Invasive species management
  - Prescribed burning (with appropriate permitting)
  - Shrub and woody vegetation management
    - Mastication

- Infrastructure or equipment improvements
  - Pond spillway repairs (with appropriate permitting)
  - Anaerobic digesters/manure management practices
  - Existing Road repair and improvement
    - Grading
    - Rocking
    - Culvert Improvement
    - Water bars or rolling dips
  - Implements
    - No-till seed drills, etc.
  - Other infrastructure
    - Chicken tractors
    - Ag-utility solar

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        - Pelletizers

- Planning / Data Collection
    - Agricultural conservation plans
    - Soil testing/equipment
    - Project design, permit planning, engineering reports (i.e. geotechnical reports) that support initial phases of a broader project
    - Succession planning services (i.e. non-profit consultant services, ranch management plans that include succession, does not cover attorneys fees)