

# Wild Farm Alliance Farmer to Farmer Field Day: ALL THINGS AVIAN PEST CONTROL ON THE FARM



**Thursday, April 16, 2020**

**8 am - 1 pm**

**Hosted by: Blue Heron Farms,  
Watsonville, CA**

**Cost: \$20, Includes lunch and a  
copy of WFA's Bird Booklet**

**8:00 am - 8:15 am - Registration**

**8:15 am - 8:45 am - Viewing Birds Up-Close with Mist Net Demonstration**

**Elissa Olimpi, PhD.**, UC Davis, captures birds on-site for close viewing, while discussing the insights gained from this technique for understanding avian pest control of insects in crops.

**8:45 am - 1:00 pm - Presentations and Lunch**

**Dennis Tamura**, co-owner, discusses [Blue Heron Farm's overall operation](#).

**Jo Ann Baumgartner**, Wild Farm Alliance (WFA), shares highlights from their publication [Supporting Beneficial Birds and Managing Pest Birds](#).

**Elissa Olimpi**, UCD, covers how the [presence of habitat beneficially affects birds' impacts](#) in strawberries and other crops.

**Breanna Martinico**, PhD Student, UC Davis, discusses [Barn Owl and Kestrel prey](#), rodenticide impacts, habitat influences, and the best types and locations of nest boxes and perches (invited).

**Rachael Long**, UCCE Farm Advisor, discusses how hedgerows and other [habitat influence control of pest insects](#) (invited).

**Jim Howard**, NRCS-San Mateo County, shares insights into [learning about and supporting birds on farms](#) where he offers growers technical assistance.

**Eric Brennan**, PhD, USDA ARS, discusses how [not all Sparrows are the same](#), and suggests ways that farmers might use cover crops to reduce Sparrow damage on cole crops while encouraging Sparrow feeding on weeds.

**Sam Earnshaw**, Hedgerows Unlimited, discusses the functionality of [native plant hedgerows](#) and other conservation plantings.

**Shelly Connor**, WFA, describes how [up to \\$100K is available](#) through the Healthy Soils Program for climate-friendly practices that can also support bird habitat.

Learn More

**Register:**

[WildFarmAlliance.org/field\\_days](http://WildFarmAlliance.org/field_days)  
[info@wildfarmalliance.org](mailto:info@wildfarmalliance.org)

Register by April 10, 2020  
Space is limited!



# All Things Avian Field Day

Learn about the birds flying through your farm and how they might be a benefit to your operation. Hear from and connect with innovative farmers, avian researchers, and other experts about practices that attract beneficial birds for pest control and manage pest birds. You will gain valuable experience in planning for practices aimed at attracting beneficial birds and other natural enemies. Registration is \$20 and includes lunch and a copy of Wild Farm Alliance's [Supporting Beneficial Birds and Managing Pest Birds Booklet](#).

## About Blue Heron Farm

Dennis Tamura and Lori Perry, and their crew from the Santa Cruz area and from the Jalisco and Michoacan regions of Mexico, raise 20 acres of organic vegetables and flowers on a farm surrounded by live oaks. With 30 nest boxes that support a multitude of Tree Swallows and Western Bluebirds, Blue Heron Farm is an oasis for birds, as the name implies. Every spring, pairs of these smaller birds begin scouting for their ideal box as they hunt pest insects in the air and on the ground. Once their nestlings hatch, they ramp up their insect consumption, helping to keep pest insect numbers down much more. After the Tree Swallows leave the farm in late summer, Dennis says he notices an increase in flea beetle scarring damage to cole crops and the spread of mosaic viruses by cucumber beetles. Bluebirds do their part too—much of their diet is composed of mosquitoes, stink bugs, and caterpillars.

This field day is brought to you by generous support from Foundation for Sustainability and Innovation, the Strong Foundation for Environmental Values and the following:



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