



*December 20, 2011*

CalCAN is the only organization in California making sure there's a seat for organic and sustainable agriculture at the climate policy table.

We have big plans for 2012, and [we need your support](#).

Here are some of the initiatives we have planned:

**Accelerate the production of on-farm clean energy —**

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, Governor Brown [signed into law a CalCAN-sponsored bill](#), the Renewable Energy Equity Act (SB 489), authored by Senator Lois Wolk. The new law will help the state meet its renewable energy goals by making it easier for small-scale bioenergy projects to connect to the grid. In 2012, we will work with farmers and food processors to help them take advantage of this opportunity to transform agricultural waste into clean energy.

**Defend the conservation program in the next farm bill —**

Working closely with the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, CalCAN will educate federal policymakers on the importance of farm bill's conservation and organic programs for ensuring a resilient and prosperous farm economy and for helping to slow climate change.

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### **Investing in agriculture's climate benefits —**

There are steps that California's farmers and ranchers can take to prepare for climate change and to help slow it down. [CalCAN advocates for resources to unleash the potential for the state's producers to contribute climate solutions](#) while continuing to act as an important economic driver by producing the majority of the nation's vegetables, fruits, nuts and dairy products. CalCAN is sponsoring the Agriculture Climate Benefits Act (SB 237), a bill that describes the need for and the uses of cap and trade revenue for investing in agriculture's climate benefits.

### **Preparing for climate change & extreme wea —**

At CalCAN, we maintain that California agriculture must prepare for the impacts of climate change that are already apparent. [We will host listening sessions in the Central Valley and the Central Coast to hear more from farmers and ranchers about what resources they need](#) to prepare for more extreme weather, shifting pest and disease problems, reduced chill hours, water shortages and more. Based on this input, we will form an action plan to meet the needs.

### **We need your help to accomplish these goals in 2012.**

Here's what you can do:

[Make a donation to CalCAN](#). We rely on tax-deductable gifts — no amount is too small.

Check out our [blog](#) with lots of reflections on climate change and agriculture. Friend us on [Facebook](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#).

[Tell-a-Friend](#). Forward this email to introduce us to your colleagues, family and friends.

***Happy Holidays from the CalCAN staff!***

***— Renata, Ted and Jeanne***

## **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Applications Due Jan. 13th**



USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) just announced that the fiscal year 2012 ranking period cutoff for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is January 13, 2012.

Interested farmers and ranchers have until January 13, 2012, to complete the initial application form to compete for a spot in the 2012 enrollment class for the program

To sign up, producers need to fill out a fairly simple application available at their [NRCS local service center](#).

Information and assistance on the program is available from the [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition website](#).

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