



In This Issue

[Assembly Hearing on
Cap-and-Trade
Funding for Ag](#)

[AB 823 Update](#)

[CSP Sign Up Open
Till May 31st](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Climate & Ag Training
in Vermont](#)

[Support CalCAN](#)

Quick Links

[About CalCAN](#)

[Donate to CalCAN](#)

[Tell a Friend](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

May 9, 2013

Assembly Committee Hears the Case for Investing in Sustainable Ag

Yesterday there was a joint hearing of the Assembly Select Committee on Sustainable and Organic Agriculture and the Assembly Select Committee on Agriculture and the Environment focused on how California agriculture can help the state meet its AB 32 goals.

The panelists collectively made a strong case for investing a portion of cap-and-trade revenue in agriculture. Vicky Dawley summed it up, speaking from her experience as a rancher and environmentalist, roles she sees as compatible. When speaking about realizing the potential in agriculture for reducing GHG emissions and getting clean air and water co-benefits, she said, "It's going to take partnerships. We need more research like that of Dr. Jackson's. We need technical assistance, which is currently at an all-time low. And we need cost supports for farmers to implement beneficial practices."



Several speakers emphasized the importance of using cap-and-trade investment funds for agricultural practices that provide many benefits

to California communities.

CalCAN's Jeanne Merrill said, "Allowance revenue should target farming practices that reduce GHG emissions while providing environmental and health co-benefits." Louise Jackson at UC Davis maintained that we should invest in "climate-friendly management that improves overall productivity on farms." Finally, Edie Chang from ARB summarized her remarks by saying "We have the potential to address adaptation strategies for agriculture as well as reduce GHG emissions."

[Read more...](#)

California Farmland Protection Act Update



In February Assemblymember Susan Talamantes-Eggman introduced AB 823, the California Farmland Protection Act. The bill is sponsored by CalCAN, Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) and American Farmland Trust.

On April 29th, AB 823 passed out of its first committee, Assembly Natural Resources. On May 1st, it was held over in the Assembly Agriculture Committee at the recommendation of Assemblymember Eggman (who is also the chair of that committee), making it a two-year bill that will be reconsidered in 2014. This is a legislative procedure commonly used when there is sufficient support for the intent of a bill but insufficient agreement among key stakeholders regarding the specific language.

The Business Industry Association organized strong and early opposition to AB 823 from varied development interests, the Chamber of Commerce, some water districts and others. Support for the bill came from land trust and open space, sustainable agriculture, environmental organizations and a number of farmers and ranchers. Since its introduction, we have been in regular dialogue with numerous stakeholders such as the California Farm Bureau and local government representatives, whose support is important in the face of the formidable opposition.

Holding over the bill until 2014 gives its supporters and the author's office time to seek common ground with numerous interested parties and to negotiate amended language without the time pressure of legislative deadlines. It is CalCAN's intention to continue facilitating this process, working closely with the co-authors of AB 823 and other coalition members.

We will keep you apprised of the process during the remainder of this year.

Conservation Stewardship Program Applications Due by May 31

The USDA has announced that applications for the fiscal year 2013 sign up of the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) are due by May 31. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will accept slightly more than 12 million acres into the program.

[CSP is an innovative working lands conservation program](#) that rewards farmers and ranchers for the conservation and environmental benefits they produce. CSP is administered by NRCS and available on a nationwide basis. CSP offers technical and financial assistance to farmers for adopting and maintaining high standards of resource conservation and environmental stewardship. Assistance is geared to both the active management of existing conservation systems and to the implementation of new conservation activities on land in agricultural production.

Earlier this month, the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, which helped develop the program and has followed its progress closely, issued an [Information Alert](#) on the 2013 sign-up. In addition to providing the timeline for the sign-up and enrollment process, the Alert includes basic sign-up information and describes changes made to the program for this sign-up, including new conservation enhancements being offered.

A great resource for growers interested in applying for CSP funds is NSAC's [Farmers' Guide to the Conservation Stewardship Program](#). The Guide provides clear information on conservation activities eligible for CSP payments to improve conservation performance and environmental benefits and step-by-step enrollment guidance.

Jobs



National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) —

NSAC is seeking a Managing/Organization Director, a new senior management structure for NSAC. The new structure facilitates a shared collaborative leadership with the Policy Director managing the policy agenda and the Managing/Organization Director handling all other aspects, including operations, administration and staff. The Managing/Organization Director will take the lead on fundraising with support from the Policy Director and appropriate staff. The Managing/Organization Director and Policy Director together will

oversee and deploy a professional staff of seven.

Applications are due June 5. Click [here](#) for more information.

Events

Pick and Gather Festival

June 1, 2

Riverdance Farms, Livingston, CA

Celebrate local farms and local food! There is camping available, a u-pick for blueberries and cherries, and live entertainment along the Merced River. Click [here](#) for more information.

Agroecological Approaches for Climate Change & Food Systems Resilience

Burlington, VT

July 7th-20th, 2013

What is agriculture's role in contributing to climate change? What are opportunities within agriculture to mitigate or adapt to a changing climate? When we talk about agriculture, do we mean smallholder farmers, industrial agriculture or both? The theme of the 14th Annual International Agroecology Shortcourse is the application of agroecological approaches to support resilience to climate change and promote robust, sustainable food systems.

For more information: www.agroecology.org

Supporting CalCAN

Here are some ways you can make a difference by supporting our work:

- [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.