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August 19, 2013

CalCAN Advocates for Ag Climate Solutions

One of the elements of AB 32, California's 2006 landmark climate change legislation, was to require the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to produce a "Scoping Plan" that outlines ways to achieve the greenhouse gas reduction goal of AB 32 — to reduce GHGs to 1990 levels by 2020. CARB is the agency charged with implementing AB 32, and they are required to update the Scoping Plan every five years.

A new Scoping Plan is due in 2013, and CARB plans to release a draft in the fall and invite public input. The draft will include recommendations for meeting the 2020 goal and also high level ideas about reaching a more ambitious GHG reduction goal by 2050. It will include six topics areas for the post-2020 element: 1) transportation, fuels, and infrastructure; 2) energy generation, transmission, and efficiency; 3) waste; 4) water; 5) agriculture; and 6) natural resources.



CalCAN submitted to CARB a <u>set of recommendations</u> for contributions that agriculture can make to help achieve California's GHG reduction target. In summary, we recommend the following for inclusion in the Scoping Plan:

Implement strategies to accelerate the implementation of water and energy use

- efficiency measures.
- Support development of innovative renewable energy in agriculture that can help run farm operations, provide excess renewable energy to the grid and reduce overall GHG emissions.
- Invest in technical assistance, educational outreach and incentives for on-farm conservation strategies that can reduce GHG emissions, sequester atmospheric carbon in soils and woody biomass and provide economic, environmental and health co-benefits.
- Include farmland protection strategies such as grants for conservation easements, funding of the Williamson Act, smart growth planning grants and statewide farmland mitigation requirements.

Read CalCAN's complete comments here.

CalCAN Internship Opening

CalCAN is offering a 20-hour per week internship from mid-Sept. to mid-Dec. The intern will assist in media, communications and event organizing, working with CalCAN's Executive Director (based in Sebastopol) and Policy Director (based in Sacramento). Activities will include development of educational and social media materials; writing newsletter/blog articles; event planning and coordination. The internship will also require assisting with other support roles, including database management and web site maintenance. The intern will receive an orientation and on-going supervision by CalCAN's Executive Director.

More details are available on our website. Application deadline is Sept. 3, 2013.

Feeling the Heat - State Climate Impacts Report

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) released earlier this month a unique report on the effects of climate change that the state is experiencing now. The report comes as a recent public opinion poll finds a record number of Californians want immediate state action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Many climate science reports project into the future what we may experience as greenhouse gases accumulate and heat up our planet. Such studies are critical to our understanding of climate change, but can make its impacts feel far and distant from our day-to-day.

But the most recent CalEPA report documents current climate change impacts that Californians are living with now. And the news has implications for

all of us and especially for farmers and ranchers who are among the first to feel the effects of a changing climate.



Read more...

Farm Bill - Clear as Mud

In early August, Congress left for its summer recess until after Labor Day with no clear way forward on the long-stalled farm bill. The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) posted a blog on July 26th that sums up the state of play, what's at stake and speculates on the path forward.



Excerpted from the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC)

The path forward on a new five-year farm bill and on the set of appropriations bills to fund the government for the coming fiscal year are clear as mud. With the federal debt ceiling to be hit this fall, it promises, sadly, to be another season of manufactured, interlocking crises in the nation's Capitol.

The situation upon Congress' return after Labor Day will be quite stark. There will be a total of nine legislative days before the farm bill and before all the appropriations bills, including agriculture, expire at the stroke of midnight on October 1. To see why nine days is not a rosy prospect, let's review where things stand, starting with the farm bill.

Farm Bill Recap

The Senate passed its 5-year farm bill back on June 10. The House then defeated its version of the farm bill ten days later. The House majority party then stripped the nutrition and food stamp title out of the bill and brought it back to floor where, despite a rule prohibiting any amendments to the bill, it passed on a party-line vote on July 11.

Since that time, a House Republican-only rump group has been meeting to discuss a possible nutrition title-only bill to bring to the House floor separate from the farm bill. Presumably, if successful, that bill would then be joined with their farm-only farm bill in conference with the Senate's comprehensive bill. To date, however, the rump group has reported very little progress and, in fact, members of the group say there is no chance they will have a product prior to September, if then.

Read more...

Hearings on Climate Adaption Plan

The California Natural Resources Agency is hosting public meetings around the state to discuss preparing for climate risks and the proposed update to the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy. These meetings are public forums intended to provide opportunities for input into updating the state's plan for preparing for climate risks. The meetings are open to the public and full participation by all parties is encouraged.

Meeting locations and dates listed below. For more information on the meetings, <u>click</u> <u>here</u>.

Sacramento • September 30, 10am - 3pm Klamath • October 2, 10am - 3pm Los Angeles • October 8, 10am - 3pm Merced • October 10, 10am - 3pm Truckee • October 11, 10am - 3pm

Quivira Conference:

Inspiring Adaptation



Nov. 13 – 15, 2013 Albuquerque, New Mexico

Renata Brillinger, CalCAN's Executive Director, will be giving a plenary presentation at the conference. The <u>Quivira Coalition</u> is a non-profit organization dedicated to building economic and ecological resilience on western working landscapes. From prehistoric times to the present, human societies have successfully adapted to the challenges of a changing West, including periods of severe drought, limitations created by scarce resources and shifting cultural and economic pressures. Now, the American West is entering an era of unprecedented change brought on by new climate realities, which will test our capacity for adaptation as well as challenge the resilience of the region's native flora and fauna. It is therefore paramount that we find and share inspiring ideas and practical strategies that help all of the region's inhabitants adapt to a rapidly changing world.

The conference will include presentations from scientists, ranchers, farmers, conservationists, urban planners and others who have bright ideas and important tools to share from their adaptation toolbox.

For more information or to register, click here.

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 <u>our blog</u> with lots of reflections on climate change and agriculture.
- Friend us on Facebook.
- Follow us on **Twitter**.
- <u>Tell-a-Friend</u>. Forward this email to introduce us to your colleagues, family and friends.

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