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Nov. 18, 2013

## California Assembly Seeks Farmland Conservation Solutions

CalCAN continues to play a leadership role in facilitating dialogue with state legislators and stakeholders on farmland protection policy issues, beginning with our co-sponsorship of a bill introduced by Assemblymember Susan Talamantes Eggman in 2013 ([AB 823](#)). On

November 5th and 6th, we were involved in organizing two events on the topic: a day touring two farms in the Stockton area and an informational hearing of the Assembly Agriculture Committee ([see video](#)).



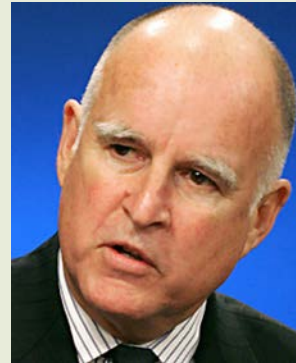
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## Calling on Governor Brown to Invest Cap-and-Trade Funds in Climate Solutions

CalCAN is one of over 90 stakeholder groups who signed an [open letter](#) to Gov. Brown recommending how cap-and-trade auction proceeds should be addressed in the upcoming January 2014 draft budget. The signers call on the Governor to do three things: abstain from loaning future auction proceeds to the General Fund, develop a detailed plan for spending the auction revenue on climate protection activities, and reinvest the money already loaned to the General Fund back into climate protection activities.



[Read more...](#)

## Climate Change and North American Rangelands: Trends, Projections & Implications

Reposted from the [California Rangeland Conservation Coalition](#)



A paper recently published in the journal *Rangeland Ecology and Management* synthesizes current knowledge of trends, projections and ecological implications of climate change on rangelands in North America. Higher temperatures, changes in precipitation and increased concentrations of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> will affect rangeland ecosystems in numerous ways, including changes to forage quantity and quality, livestock metabolism, fire regimes, plant community composition and invasive species. The paper acknowledges that climate change impacts will vary among different ecoregions and recommends integrating climate change into strategies for rangeland management, research and policy. Authors include scientists from Texas A&M and USDA researchers from Texas, Colorado and New Mexico.



[Check out the article...](#)

## Sonoma County to Examine Agricultural Uses of Biochar

The Sonoma Ecology Center recently received a \$75,000 grant from the USDA and matching funds from the Sonoma County Water Agency to purchase an Adam Retort, a wood-burning machine capable of creating large amounts of biochar. A form of charcoal produced by burning organic matter in the absence of oxygen, biochar could have significant climate change mitigation potential on agricultural lands. Researchers hope to examine how the porous material might be able to enhance soil health, increase water absorption capacity, improve agricultural productivity, and sequester atmospheric carbon. To allow experimentation on different soil types, three Sonoma County farms will serve as research sites and have collectively committed \$83,000 worth of time and labor to the project.



Click [here](#) to read the Sonoma Index-Tribune article.

## Funding

### Specialty Crop Block Grant RFP and Call for Reviewers

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) announced a competitive solicitation process to award 2014 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funds for proposals that solely enhance the competitiveness of California specialty crops.



For instructions on the solicitation and application process, click [here](#).

The CDFA is also seeking applicants to serve as reviewers on the 2014 Specialty Crop Block Grant Technical Review Committee, which reviews, evaluates, and makes recommendations to CDFA on proposals submitted for funding from the California Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The committee will consist of individuals who have knowledge and expertise regarding California's specialty crop industry. Those interested in serving on the Technical Review Committee must submit application materials via email to Leslie Sullivan ([grants@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:grants@cdfa.ca.gov)) before December 2, 2013.

For more details on committee and the application process, click [here](#).

**Organic Farming Research Foundation  
Accepting Grants**



OFRF is accepting grant proposals for its Spring 2014 grants cycle for research and education projects on organic farming and food systems. OFRF invites proposals from all applicants and particularly encourages farmers, ranchers, researchers, and Extension personnel to consider applying for funding. Farmers and ranchers often find that working with a professional researcher helps to design and carry out a research project, and OFRF encourages applications from such partnerships.



For details on the application process, click [here](#).

## Events

### **CalPoly Sustainable Ag Pest Management Conference Dec. 6-7, 2013 • San Luis Obispo**

Leading researchers and specialists from across California will address pressing issues in agricultural pest management and provide innovative approaches for growers, pest control advisers, and other consultants. Topics will include pollinator health and the effective use of pesticides in integrated pest management strategies, new findings in mating disruption and the use of adjuvants, pest responses to plant nutrient levels, and an update on Cal Poly's Strawberry Sustainability Research and Education Center. Registration is open to the public and available through November 8.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

### **Communicating Coastal Climate Change Workshop Feb. 4 or 6, 2014, 9:00am – 5:00pm • Oakland or Monterey**

Elkhorn Slough and San Francisco Bay Coastal Training Programs are sponsoring a one-day training workshop, offered in two locations, on communicating coastal climate impacts to stakeholders, partners, and the public. The day-long workshop, intended for coastal resource managers, government staff, public engagement and outreach specialists, will invite participants to join climate and environmental communication expert Cara Pike for an in-depth training in climate communication best practices. Participants will leave with a draft climate presentation that can be used to reach and motivate their target audiences. Registration is due by January 13.

Click for details on the [Oakland workshop](#) (Feb. 4) or the [Monterey workshop](#) (Feb. 6).

### **Whole Farm Planning Training for Ag Educators Jan. 2014 - Dec. 2016 (online)**

Holistic Management International is offering a free three-year remote training program to agricultural educators from any of the following organizations:

- Cooperative Extension
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Resource Conservation & Development



- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Farmer Educators

The program, which provides educators with a simple and effective process to use in guiding the producers they serve to develop the farm or ranch of their dreams, will include interactive courses and webinars facilitated by highly respected and experienced Holistic Management Certified Educators. Applications are due by December 1, 2013.

Click [here](#) for details and information on how to apply.

**Soils and Soil Fertility Management Workshop & Field Day  
Dec. 6, 2013, 9am - 1pm  
Sunol AgPark (Sunol, southern Alameda County)**

Organized by SAGE, the workshop will be led by Jim Leap, Farm Manager emeritus for the UC Santa Cruz Agro-ecology program farm and garden, part of the UCSC Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems. Jim is currently the farm advisor for the Sunol AgPark and other SAGE projects. He also works on USDA field station trials, advises on the UCSC farm program, and runs his own small farm.

Click [here](#) for more information.

## Jobs



### **National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC)**

NSAC is currently seeking a Policy Intern and a Grassroots Intern for the spring term beginning in January and ending in May. These positions are full time and are located at the DC office on Capitol Hill.

As the leading advocacy organization for federal policy that supports sustainable agriculture and food systems, NSAC works towards the vision of creating a safe, nutritious, and affordable food supply produced by a legion of diverse family farmers who make a decent living pursuing their trade, while sustaining the environment and contributing to the strength of their communities.

The **Policy Intern** will work closely with NSAC's policy and grassroots staff on the full range of daily activities in the fast-paced DC office, and will report directly to NSAC's leadership team. For more information on this position, click [here](#).

The **Grassroots Intern** will also work closely with NSAC's grassroots and policy staff on the full range of daily activities in the fast-paced DC office, with a focus on working on several active grassroots advocacy campaigns. For more information on this position, 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 [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.

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