

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Climate and Agriculture Leaders Recognized at Statewide Conference

Davis, CA – On March 25 at the UC Davis Conference Center, the California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN) will award three individuals for their leadership in the field of agriculture and climate change. Awards are given in to experts in three areas: Policy; Science; Farming or Ranching. The 2015 winners that will be recognized on March 25 are:

Craig McNamara — Craig is the owner of Sierra Orchards in Winters, the founder of the Center for Land-Based Learning (where the next generation of farmers are trained) and President of the State Board of Food and Agriculture. Craig employs climate-friendly practices on his farm and is actively involved in education and policy development on sustainable and environmental stewardship.

Senator Lois Wolk — Senator Wolk represents the Third District in the California State Senate, which includes Napa and Solano Counties, most of Yolo County, and parts of Sonoma, Contra Costa and Sacramento Counties. During her more than a decade of service in the state legislature, she has led efforts on many issues related to climate change and agriculture policy, including bills to remove barriers to on-farm renewable energy production, protecting farmland, and addressing water scarcity and water management challenges. Senator Wolk is the author of this year's Senate Bill 367, the Agriculture Climate Benefits Act, sponsored by CalCAN.

Dr. Stephen Wheeler — Dr. Wheeler is an Associate Professor in Department of Human Ecology at UC Davis and is associated with the UC Davis Center for Regional Change. Stephen and his colleagues published pioneering research on the climate change adaptation and mitigation benefits of agricultural land preservation in Yolo County, finding that urban development is responsible for 70 times higher greenhouse gas emissions per acre than farmland in that county, and that a very compact urban growth scenario could reduce 2050 greenhouse gas emissions from new development in the county by 50% as well as saving farmland.

Previous award winners include: Former California Secretary of Food and Agriculture Rich Rominger; former Assembly Speaker John Pérez; UC Davis Professors Louise Jackson and Valerie Eviner; farmers Russ Lester and Jenny Lester-Moffitt (who was recently appointed Deputy Secretary at the California Department of Food and Agriculture).

The Climate and Agriculture Leadership Awards will take place as part of the **4th California Climate Change and Agriculture Summit**. A program for the conference can be found at <http://calclimateag.org/summit-program/>. Press passes are available by contacting Adam Kotin at adam@calclimateag.org.