



News from the California Climate & Agriculture Network

September 15, 2014



4th California Climate & Agriculture Summit

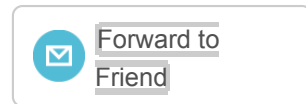
March 24 & 25, 2015

UC Davis Conference Center

Call for Workshop & Poster Presentations

Please save the date for CalCAN's *4th California Climate and Agriculture Summit*. The Summit begins on March 24 with a farm tour in the Yolo County area. March 25 is a full day of plenary, workshop and poster presentations ending with a wine and cheese reception.

The Summit explores the science, policy and practice of climate change and sustainable agriculture in California.



CalCAN is a coalition of organic and sustainable agriculture organizations that advances policies to

Participants include farmers and ranchers, agency staff, technical service providers, policymakers and advocates concerned with climate change challenges and opportunities for California agriculture.

Call for Proposals:

CalCAN is soliciting proposals for workshops and poster presentations. There are three tracks for the Summit:

1. Policy
2. Science and Innovations
3. Practical Topics and Resources for Growers

Please see our website for topics that have been included at previous summits: <http://calclimateag.org/climate-agriculture-summits/>

Submission Deadline:

Proposals are due by October 3, 2014. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out by November 1, 2014.

For more information on submitting proposals, please see the [CalCAN website](#).

provide resources for climate-friendly farming practices.

[Learn more...](#)

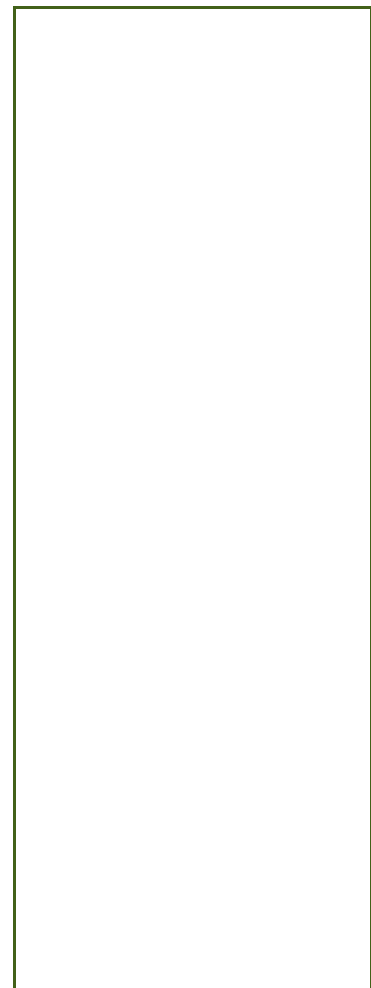
We just launched our [LinkedIn page](#) and we would like to hear from you — post photos, share stories, and give suggestions. Help us spread the word about CalCAN's work on California policy to support sustainable agriculture!



Overdrawn Groundwater, Overdue Legislation

California is facing a groundwater crisis. The Central Valley alone has lost about 41 million acre-feet of groundwater since the 1990s.

Three bills currently on Governor Brown's desk would, for the first time, put in place comprehensive groundwater management regulations. CalCAN supports these bills as a necessary step forward to improve local groundwater management and provide greater certainty for agricultural and urban water users at a time of increasing water scarcity.



[Read more...](#)



Water Bond Includes Ag Water Conservation Funding

California farmers and ranchers have something to celebrate in the new water bond, recently approved by the legislature and Governor Brown for the November ballot. The water bond includes \$100 million for water use efficiency projects in agricultural and urban areas. CalCAN advocated for the inclusion of funding to support on-farm water use efficiency projects, which past bonds had failed to adequately include.

“California has a lot to gain by investing in on-farm water use efficiency projects,” said Jeanne Merrill, CalCAN Policy Director. “The new water bond will bring us closer to realizing important water savings while keeping farmers on the land.”

At a time of severe drought, the water bond will bring an important infusion of funding for conservation, water recycling, groundwater and safe drinking water projects. The \$7.45 billion water bond is not without controversial elements, including \$2.7 billion for new dams and reservoirs.

“We need to support innovations in water use efficiency on the farm and across the state,” said Craig McNamara, President of the State Board of Food and Agriculture and owner of Sierra Orchards. “The new water bond will support a 21st century California.”

[Read more...](#)

Agriculture Front and Center in Adaptation Planning

While funds for aggressive greenhouse gas emissions reductions have begun to be made available through the cap-and-trade program under AB 32, we have yet to see any significant actions taken to address the challenge of

adapting to climate change impacts.

But in recent weeks, state agencies have begun laying the groundwork for their efforts to help gird California's businesses, residents, and environment from the impacts of extreme weather and shifting climate trends.

In a series of reports, plans, and research initiatives being launched in the coming months, the vulnerability of the agriculture sector is being discussed front and center.

CalCAN has been closely tracking these efforts and sharing our input with the relevant state agencies. This is a crucial time to help shape the conversations about agricultural adaptation planning in California.

[Read more...](#)



Society for Range Management Annual Meeting & Call for Proposals

If you are working in the fields such as terrestrial ecology, ecosystem ecology, food production, land conservation, wildlife management, environmental social science, environmental science, or soil science, you are invited to submit an abstract for the Society for Range Management annual meeting this year. The conference theme is "managing diversity." The conference and society is multi-disciplinary and increasingly concerned with issues of land and habitat conservation and management. It will be attended by researchers from around the country as well as land management professionals and agriculturalists. The meeting will be held in Sacramento.

Abstracts are due Sept. 20. Click [here](#) for more information.

USDA Provides \$328 Million to Conserve Wetlands and Farmland

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that \$328 million in conservation funding is being invested to help landowners protect and restore key farmlands, grasslands and wetlands across the nation, with \$22 million allocated to improve water quality and wetland storage capacity in the California

Bay Delta region.

The funding is provided through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), which was created in the 2014 Farm Bill to protect critical wetlands and encourage producers to keep lands in farming and ranching.

Approximately [380 projects nationwide](#) were selected to protect and restore 32,000 acres of prime farmland, 45,000 acres of grasslands and 52,000 acres of wetlands.

Through ACEP, private or tribal landowners and eligible conservation partners working with landowners can request assistance from USDA to protect and enhance agricultural land through an agricultural or wetland easement. ACEP consolidates three former Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) easement programs – Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, Grasslands Reserve Program and Wetlands Reserve Program – into two components. One component protects farmlands and grasslands, and the other protects and restores agricultural wetlands.

Find more information on ACEP [here](#). To learn about technical and financial assistance available through USDA's conservation programs, click [here](#).

Events

CalCAN Workshop

Tools for Enhancing On-Farm Drought Resilience

Thursday October 9, 2014

Red Bluff, CA

NRCS, Cooperative Extension and RCD staff are invited to attend this free professional development workshop to:

- Get an overview of climate change science and expected climate impacts on Northern California
- Learn about agricultural conservation tools for growers that will enhance their ability to adapt to increased water scarcity
- Share resources and discuss experiences related to drought responses and climate adaptation in agriculture
- Learn about current climate policy and planning initiatives related to agriculture

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

Hoes Down Harvest Celebration

October 4 – 5, 2014

Full Belly Farm, Guinda, Yolo County

Two fun-filled days of events and seminars for all ages at

Full Belly Farm in rural Capay Valley — a region of many small farms that supply Northern California's neighborhood grocery stores and eateries with fresh organic produce. This 27th annual event offers the public a special opportunity to connect with rural life and deepen understanding of the local food system.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Planned Grazing: Build Soil, Grassland Health & Profit

October 21 – 23, 2014

Ridgewood Ranch, Willits, CA

Learn how to develop and implement a successful grazing plan. This powerful step-by-step grazing planning process developed by Allan Savory is good for your grass, livestock, wildlife, soil, monitoring, and especially your wallet.

Click [here](#) to register. Questions can be directed to (530) 771-7332 or admin@cnga.org.

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