



## News from the California Climate & Agriculture Network

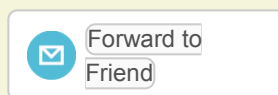
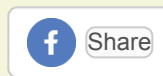
October 21, 2014



### Save the Date for the CalCAN Summit!

On March 24 & 25, 2015 CalCAN is hosting our 4th *California Climate & Agriculture Summit* at the UC Davis Conference Center. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us! Early bird registration will open in January, and we will preview workshops and speakers in the coming weeks.

The Summit begins on March 24th with a farm tour in the Yolo County area. March 25th is a full day of workshops 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. Participants include farmers and ranchers, agency staff, technical service providers, policymakers and advocates concerned with climate change challenges and opportunities for California agriculture.

### ***Seeking Summit Supporters***

We invite you to show your support for CalCAN by becoming a sponsor. This partnering opportunity gives your business or organization recognition and visibility as a leader. To learn more, contact Julie at [Julie@calclimateag.org](mailto:Julie@calclimateag.org) or 707-478-4431.

### ***Poster Submission Deadline Extended***

If you are interested in submitting a proposal for a poster presentation, we are still accepting submissions. Please click [here](#) for more information.



## **California Legislative Round-Up 2014**

This year saw considerable legislative action on issues relevant to climate change and agriculture in California. Click [here](#) to read a recap by Adam Kotin, CalCAN's Associate Policy Director, summarizing what passed and what didn't on farmland protection, water, renewable energy, waste management and more.

CalCAN is a coalition of organic and sustainable agriculture organizations that advances policies to provide resources for climate-friendly farming practices.

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## Legislators Learn about Climate-Friendly Farming

On Sept. 25, CalCAN partnered with CCOF to bring state legislators to three Central Coast organic farms. It was an honor to be joined by Assemblymember Susan Talamantes-Eggman (D-Stockton, chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee), Assemblymember Mark Stone (D-Monterey Bay) and Senator Bill Monning (D-Carmel) for a day of tours that showcased the climate and other environmental benefits of organic production.

[Read more...](#)



## CalCAN Interns: Where Are They Now?

Our Policy & Communications Intern, Sharon Licht, caught up with former interns to learn how their CalCAN experience shaped their education and employment goals and objectives. Check out [Sharon's blog](#).

CalCAN has offered paid stipends to students since 2011. Please [consider making a donation to CalCAN](#) to underwrite our internship positions and support CalCAN in providing

opportunities for future leaders, advocates and policy experts!

## NCAT Awarded National Grant to Understand and Improve Organic Farming Risks

Is organic farming risky? The [National Center for Appropriate Technology](#) (NCAT) will be taking an in-depth look at that question over the next four years. NCAT was awarded a \$750,000 USDA Organic Research and Extension Initiative Program grant to explore organic farming's risk as well as whether the general lack of quality crop insurance acts as a barrier to the expansion of diversified organic systems of food production and markets.

"This is a very exciting opportunity to better understand how and to what extent organic production systems can build more resilient food systems," said Jeff Schahczenski, NCAT's agricultural policy and funding research director.

For more information, contact Jeff Schahczenski at 406-494-8636 or [jeffs@ncat.org](mailto:jeffs@ncat.org).

## Funding

### **Funding available for water conservation and use efficiency**

#### **Deadline: November 10, 2014**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has opened a second round of funding for the [State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program](#) (SWEET), authorized by Governor Brown's emergency drought legislation earlier in 2014.

SWEET is a unique opportunity for growers to receive financial assistance to install water distribution systems that save water and reduce greenhouse gases. Up to \$150,000 will be provided directly to agricultural operations for water and energy conservation projects that benefit all Californians. The funding can support a broad range of irrigation-related projects such as pump improvements, equipment to facilitate water saving measures and other quantifiable water distribution and greenhouse gas reduction management practices.

For more information and to apply, go to [www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/SWEET](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/SWEET). Prospective applicants may contact CDFA's Grants Office at [grants@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:grants@cdfa.ca.gov) with general program questions.

### **Hardship Assistance for Organic Producers**

**Deadline: November 12, 2014**

Assistance is now available for certified organic operators who have experienced significant financial-hardship in 2014. Apply now to have the costs of your organic certification covered. The Brimont Fund provides direct financial assistance exclusively to organic producers and processors/handlers who suffer losses due to extreme hardship. Since 2007, CCOF has distributed funds annually to members of the organic community who are in need.

To apply, fill out a form and documentation of hardship available [here](#). Assistance is limited and will be awarded based on need and available funds.

For questions, please email [ccofoundation@ccof.org](mailto:ccofoundation@ccof.org) or call (831) 423-2263.

### **Extension Risk Management Education Competitive Grants Program**

**Deadline: November 17, 2014**

The Western Extension Risk Management Education Center (Western Center) is offering funding of up to \$50,000 for projects that help farm and ranch families succeed through targeted risk management strategies.

Click [here](#) for application information. Questions or comments regarding the RFA may be directed to Jo Ann Warner, 509-477-2168 or [warnerj@wsu.edu](mailto:warnerj@wsu.edu) or Shannon Neibergs, 509-335-6360 or [sneibergs@wsu.edu](mailto:sneibergs@wsu.edu).

## **Events**

### **Roundtable on Food, Farming & Faith**

**October 29, 2014 - 7:00 - 9:00pm**

#### **St. John's Episcopal Church, Stockton**

Join faith leaders, agricultural experts and advocates as we discuss the impacts of global warming on our region from the drought to extreme weather, as well as the constructive role agriculture can play in providing climate change solutions. This roundtable is a chance for you to explore how this environmental and health issue informs our faith and what response our faith communities can offer.

Speakers:

Elvira Ramirez, Member of the Board of Directors of Catholic Rural Life

Renata Brillinger, California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN)

Jeanne Okuye, Okuye Farm

Dan O'Connell, American Farmland Trust

For more information and to RSVP, contact Katelyn Roedner Sutter at [kroedner@ccstockton.org](mailto:kroedner@ccstockton.org).

**Ranching and California's Drought  
November 7, 2014**

A workshop and webcast for ranchers and allied professionals and landowners. This workshop will tell you the story of the Drought Monitor, in particular how the map may help you qualify for drought relief assistance – and how local California experience and information can be used to inform the drought mapping process. Results will also be shared from current studies of how ranchers are impacted by and managing for drought on their ranches, as well as on the newest livestock drought feeding strategies. The California state climatologist will present the forecast for the coming season. The workshop will be on the UC Davis campus and webcast to the majority of participants at local satellite locations across California.

To register or for more information: Tracy Schohr at [tkschohr@ucdavis.edu](mailto:tkschohr@ucdavis.edu) or (916)716-2643.

**3rd Annual Seedstock Sustainable Agriculture  
Innovation Conference  
Reintegrating Ag: Local Food Systems and the  
Future of Cities  
November 11 – 12, 2014, UCLA Anderson School of  
Management**

This conference will explore the economic impact as well as the community and environmental benefits that can result from the development of a robust local food system.

Panels and keynotes will explore, among other topics, the following:

- Reintegrating Agriculture into the City
- The local food production and commercial potential of controlled environment agriculture in cities;
- How city and county policy can encourage investment in and support of local and urban agriculture;
- Business models and technological solutions from irrigation technology to supply chain innovations necessary to augment the growth of local food systems

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

**What Works in Conservation: Tools for Rethinking  
Water, Quantifying Value, and Thriving in our**



## **Landscapes**

**November 13 – 15, 2014, Ventura**

Highlighting the key conservation issues in Southern California, participants will share ideas on what works in conservation and have the opportunity to advance statewide partnerships. Some of this year's break out session topics include:

- Rethinking Water: Strategies to Build an Equitable, Reliable, and Clean Water Source
- Creating Healthy Cityscapes: Building Partnerships to Address Regional and Specific Urban Conservation
- Accounting for Conservation: Frameworks for Demonstrating the Value of Conservation

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

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Thank you for your interest in the California Climate and Agriculture Network.

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