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Contact: Renata Brillinger, California Climate & Agriculture Network
707-536-7619 (cell) • renata@calclimateag.org

Farmers and Agriculture Experts Urge Governor Brown to Take Action on Climate-Friendly Farming

SACRAMENTO — A group of farmers and sustainable agriculture groups are calling on Governor Jerry Brown to look to California farms and ranches as he plans for aggressive action on climate change during his fourth term.

“As the Governor said in his inaugural address, agriculture can play an important role in addressing climate change,” said Russ Lester of Dixon Ridge Farms near Winters. “Farmers can grow renewable energy, turn soil into carbon sponges, and protect land from suburban sprawl.

A report released today recommends twenty-eight ways the Brown Administration can support agriculture in reducing greenhouse gas emissions while building more resilience to drought and extreme weather. [Growing Solutions: Climate Change and Agriculture Recommendations to the California Governor](#) was crafted by a group of farmers, researchers and agriculture experts, and released by the California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN).

“California cannot achieve its ambitious climate goals without agriculture,” stated Renata Brillinger, CalCAN’s Executive Director. “Our policy toolkit taps the power of the state’s working lands to provide tangible, affordable climate solutions.”

Governor Brown’s FY 2015-16 budget proposal includes some funding for agricultural climate efforts, but it falls far short of what is needed. CalCAN’s report offers a comprehensive vision for how the Brown Administration can support and invest in on-farm renewable energy and energy efficiency, water stewardship, farmland conservation, climate-friendly farming practices, and farmworker well-being.

“In addition to green buildings, electric vehicles and forest protection, we need farmers to join the fight against climate change,” said Judith Redmond of Full Belly Farm in Guinda. “Their unique solutions also bring food security, jobs, improved air and water quality, and healthy communities.”

California’s record drought, now heading into its fourth year, makes clear that farmers are on the front lines of climate change. [Growing Solutions](#) lays out a roadmap for supporting the \$43 billion agriculture industry in coping with the challenges ahead while also doing its part to tackle climate change.

“Farmers around the state have already proven that climate-friendly California agriculture is possible,” added Chris Coburn, Executive Director of the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County, “Governor Brown can catalyze and multiply these efforts in a big way.”

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The California Climate and Agriculture Network is a coalition of sustainable agriculture and farmer member groups working on the nexus of climate change and agriculture policy issues.

Growing Solutions can be found online at:
<http://calclimateag.org/recommendations-to-governor/>