
News from the California Climate & Agriculture Network

February 20, 2015



California Climate & Agriculture Summit

Earlybird rates end today (Feb. 20th)

[Register Now!](#)

The farm tour on March 24th is full, with a growing waitlist. Only about 50 more spaces are available for the full day of plenary, workshop, and poster presentations at UC Davis on the 25th! To see the final program, please click [here](#).

[Register Now](#)

Governor Report Released

Farmers, researchers and agriculture experts contributed to a CalCAN report released in January that recommends 28 ways Governor Jerry Brown can support agriculture to achieve California's climate goals. [Growing Solutions: Climate Change and Agriculture Recommendations to the California Governor](#) is a policy toolkit that identifies the climate solutions provided by working lands. The report offers a comprehensive vision for the Brown Administration's investment in on-farm renewable energy and

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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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energy efficiency, water stewardship, farmland conservation, climate-friendly farming practices, and farmworker well-being.

[Read more...](#)

New Fact Sheet: Climate Solutions in Agriculture

CalCAN recently released an updated summary of the many climate benefits of organic and sustainable farming and ranching practices. This new fact sheet summarizes the current peer-reviewed scientific literature on agriculture and climate change mitigation, focusing on methods for reducing GHG emissions and sequestering carbon. A whole-farm system approach is cited as necessary for a holistic understanding of the opportunities for reducing agricultural GHG emissions and providing environmental co-benefits.

Click [here](#) to check out the new fact sheet!

Conservation Stewardship Program Enrollment deadline: Feb. 27

Farmers and ranchers have until February 27th to enroll in the biggest federal conservation program – the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). A whole-farm, comprehensive working lands conservation program, CSP offers growers the opportunity to earn payments for maintaining and expanding conservation practices, such as cover crops, rotational grazing, ecologically-based pest management, organic farming, and more.

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) has released two free resources to help farmers and ranchers understand CSP and navigate the application process:

1. An Information Alert with application and deadline details for this year, available [here](#).
2. A comprehensive Farmers' Guide to CSP, available [here](#).

SALC Program Launched!

On January 20th, the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) unanimously voted to launch California's historic [Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation \(SALC\) Program](#). The SALC Program aims to integrate funding for permanent agricultural easements with urban land use projects, in an effort to

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maximize the gains in reducing GHG emissions linked to vehicle miles traveled and urban development. This is the first program in the country that invests in farmland conservation for its climate benefits.

[Read more...](#)

Proposed Changes to Easement Tax Rules

President Obama's budget for 2016 recognizes the value of conservation easements in encouraging landowners to avoid development and promote ecosystem health, wildlife habitats, public recreational values, resilience to climate change and more.

The Administration notes that, despite the importance of easements as incentives for conservation, they have been of limited value to landowners with modest incomes, and in other cases have proven susceptible to abuse and tax disputes. To promote effective conservation efforts and reduce opportunities for abuse, the Administration proposes a number of easement deduction reforms.

Click [here](#) for more information and analysis from the California Council of Land Trusts.



Soil Health Awareness

In his [budget draft](#) for fiscal year 2015–16, Governor Brown included statements about the value of cultivating health soils, emphasizing the many benefits of increased carbon storage in California's agricultural soils.

USDA's Soil Health Awareness initiative provides resources for growers to take action on Governor Brown's statements. It provides resources to help the public understand the importance of managing soil fertility. The site includes videos, fact sheets, and other resources that allow visitors to

learn about soil health management systems directly from farmers using those systems.

[Explore the site...](#)

Grants

USDA Seeks Applicants for Conservation Innovation Grants

Proposals due Feb. 24

The Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) program provides funding to farmers for projects that demonstrate innovation conservation approaches and technologies. USDA is seeking CIG applications for projects that stimulate the development of new markets for carbon credits, such as those that involve improved quantification tools and multi-resource crediting. USDA also seeks proposals for projects that conserve water, improve soil health, or protect wildlife habitat.

Click [here](#) for more information.

CDFA Funding for Nitrogen Management Research Proposals due March 3

CDFA's Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) is accepting proposals to fund nitrogen management research in environmentally sensitive areas in California. FREP seeks proposals on: nitrogen management training for growers, easy-to-use technology at the field scale, concurrent management of water and nitrate in croplands to prevent nitrate leaching and nitrous oxide emissions, and the demonstration of effective nutrient management practices that have been developed through experimental research trials.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Energy Grants for Farmers, Ranchers, Small Businesses

Application deadlines: April 30 & June 30

Rural Development is now accepting applications for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), which helps to purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements. Grants up to \$500,000 and guaranteed loans up to \$25 million are available depending on the project.

Click [here](#) for more information, or contact:
Steven Nicholls at 530-792-5805 (or)

Events

Grant-Writing Workshops for Farmers and Advocates April 8 on the UC Berkeley campus

UC Cooperative Extension is partnering with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service to help potential applicants understand, develop, and submit their Federal grant applications for the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program. Grant-writing workshops will be offered throughout the month of April in several northern California locations (dates and locations TBD).

The first workshop will be held in Mulford Hall on the UC Berkeley campus on April 8th, from 9am to 2pm. Please contact Jennifer Sowerwine at jsowerwi@berkeley.edu for more information.

Jobs

Executive Director, Bay Area Open Space Council

The executive director will have overall strategic and operational responsibility for the organization. The primary responsibility of the executive director is to harness the relationships, organizational assets and innovations of the Bay Area Open Space Council to yield political support for regional funding and policies, and to manage all programmatic and administrative activities of the organization. The ED will have substantial responsibility for deepening the vision and expanding the reach of the organization in order to fully animate the potential of this unique organization to achieve regional conservation goals.

Please contact Nancy Painter should you be personally interested in learning more about this role. To learn more about our organizations, please visit our websites; <http://openspacecouncil.org/> and www.painterexecutivesearch.com.

Policy Specialist National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC)

NSAC is an alliance of grassroots organizations that advocates for federal policy reform to advance the sustainability of agriculture, food systems, natural resources, and rural communities. NSAC is currently seeking a Policy Specialist for a portion of our conservation and environment portfolio and an additional issue portfolio to be determined. This position is located at NSAC's DC office on Capitol Hill.

The Policy Specialist, one of five Policy Specialists at NSAC, reports to NSAC's Policy Director. A description and application information can be found [here](#).

Program Assistant

San Mateo County Resource Conservation District

The San Mateo County RCD, located in Half Moon Bay, seeks a Program Assistant with a "can-do" attitude and a strong desire to learn. This individual will assist the RCD in administration of its programs to help landowners voluntarily conserve natural resources. The Program Assistant plays a lead role in grants administration and provides support to projects and programs as well as the general administrative function of the RCD. This is a full-time hourly administrative position and is grant-dependent.

For more information about applying, please contact Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director at kellyx@sanmateorcd.org.

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