



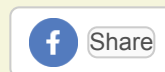
News from the California Climate & Agriculture Network

April 13, 2015



SB 367: Agriculture Climate Benefits Act

CalCAN is excited to announce our leadership in a newly introduced state bill called the [Agriculture Climate Benefits Act](#), or



SB 367. Introduced by Senator Lois Wolk (D-Yolo County) and co-sponsored by CalCAN and the Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF), SB 367 promotes 'climate-friendly' agricultural practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or store carbon.

It creates a new statewide competitive grants program, to be administered by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, that would receive \$50 million in cap-and-trade money to incentivize on-farm management practices with climate benefits. SB 367 also directs \$20 to \$30 million to the existing Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program, which protects farmland from urban development and funds 'climate-friendly' pilot projects on farms.

[Read more...](#)



CalCAN Summit Recap

The 4th Climate & Agriculture Summit at UC Davis was, by all accounts, CalCAN's most successful Summit yet.

The daylong gathering on March 25th brought together 320 participants, including 65 farmers and ranchers from across California. Our 60+ speakers, panelists, moderators and poster presenters were uniformly excellent, demonstrating the amazing diversity and expertise of CalCAN's partners and friends.

Overall, the Summit was a testament to how far we have collectively come in our work to unleash agricultural solutions to climate change—and an important reminder of the opportunities that still lie ahead.

[Read 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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Farm Tour Showcases Techniques for Climate Resilience

On March 24th, over 60 growers, researchers, policymakers, technical service providers and advocates convened for a tour of four Yolo County farms that each demonstrate unique strategies for agricultural resilience to climate change. Our stops included Rominger Brothers Farm, Yolo Land & Cattle Co., a Yolo County RCD Restoration Project, and Hedgerow Farms. The tour allowed participants to hear from farmers how they cope with impacts of climate change, and to understand what farmers need from the array of sectors represented by the folks in attendance.

[Read more...](#)

Jerry Brown's Next Legacy

California Governor Jerry Brown has always been ahead of the curve on environmental sustainability. During his first term as Governor in the 1970s, he authorized a first-ever tax incentive for rooftop solar and rolled back a tax break for oil companies. He helped make water conservation a way of life during the 1976-77 drought, a California ethos that largely persists to this day. Now in his fourth (and final) term in office, Governor Brown has an opportunity to round out this impressive environmental résumé: he can transform California into a climate-friendly farming pioneer...

[Read more...](#)



Farmers Speak:

Giving Voice to Organic Almonds

A spotlight on Burroughs Family Farm

Clif Bar has launched a video series, *Farmers Speak*, which gives voice to the stories of organic ingredients and the farmers who grow them. This video introduces viewers to the [Burroughs](#), a multigenerational farm family that grows nearly 1,000 acres of organic almonds in California's Central Valley. It explores the Burroughs' transition to certified organic farming, which Ward describes as "the best decision we've ever made in our lives." CalCAN is honored to have Rosie and Ward Burroughs serve on our Farmer Advisory Council.

Watch the video [here](#)!

Grants

USDA Agricultural Conservation Easements Program (ACEP)

Applications due May 15, 2015

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service is currently accepting ACEP applications, which includes two easement options: the Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) and the Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE). A total of \$14.5 million is available for ACEP applicants throughout the state.

ALE funds are provided to eligible entities to cost-share the purchase of conservation easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of privately owned land. WRE provides compensation to farmers, ranchers and other private landowners for land placed in wetland conservation easements, and cost-share funding for restoring degraded wetlands. This year, WRE will include the Grazing Reserve Rights option which allows participants with an approved wetland and grazing management plan to enroll grazed land. Interested landowners should contact their local NRCS field office to apply for the program.

Learn more [here](#).

Western SARE Grant Programs Proposals due Oct.–Dec. 2015

The 2016 Calls for Proposals for four Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grant programs have been released. The four grant programs include:

- Research and Education
- Professional Development
- Farmer/Rancher

- Professional + Producer

Descriptions of each program can be found [here](#).

Events

Free Online Discussion about Nutrient Management Solutions in Times of Drought for Forage Crops Series starts April 6th

Adapting farm management practices during extreme drought presents new challenges for growers and researchers alike. Join this online discussion series, share your experiences and learn from other farmers, UC Farm Advisors and area experts about maintaining fertile soil and healthy crops during dry weather and limited water availability.

Visit the [Nutrient Management Solutions Group](#) on FarmsReach to join! Please contact Eva Antczak at evaa@farmsreach.com with any questions.

Fostering Resilience and Health of Food Systems in the Face of Drought

Monday, April 13, 2 – 6pm

**Tamalpais Room, David Brower Center
2150 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA**

This forum, hosted by the Berkeley Food Institute, will identify strategies and practices that foster resilient and healthy food systems, by enabling vulnerable farmers, farmworkers, and communities to build buffers against drought, plan for climate change and implement more sustainable approaches. A diverse group of speakers, including CalCAN Executive Director Renata Brillinger, will identify practices such as water and soil management methods, diversification of crops that help to deal with climate extremes, and private and public programs to support their implementation. They will also discuss strategies to protect the health and socio-economic stability of rural communities affected by drought and climate change.

Learn more [here](#).

Water Efficiency Workshop for Vineyards & Diversified Farms

Tuesday, April 14, 8:30am – 1pm

Rose Ranch, Kenwood, CA

Join the Sonoma RCD for a LandSmart® Field Event in

partnership with Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) and the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance. Presenters of the day include: Keith Abeles, Tom Shapland, Rachel Petitt, Ellen Hopkins, Jodi Wilson, and Steve Rose of Rose Ranch/Vineyards Inn owner, who will discuss holistic practices used at the ranch (pasture management, compost/vermi-compost applications, and cover cropping). Chef Rose will also provide an organic lunch!

Register [here](#) (\$15). Space is limited to 40 people!

For more information contact: Ellen Hopkins (415) 350-1506 or Keith Abeles (707) 569-1448 x 112 or kabeles@sonomarcd.org

How Blue Is Your Valley? Your Voice, Your Future: A Community Conference on Water in the San Joaquin Valley

Friday, April 24

Old Administration Building (OAB) at Fresno City College

1101 E. University Avenue, Room 251, Fresno, CA

This conference focuses on drought resilience, groundwater legislation, human rights to safe drinking water, and hydraulic fracturing in the San Joaquin Valley. Speakers include Roger Moore, Chris Austin, Mark Arax, K. Eric Adair, and more!

Learn more [here](#).

Resilient Food Systems Conference

Friday, May 8 at 8:00 AM – Saturday, May 9

Center for Sustainability, Cal Poly

The resilience of a system refers to its ability to adapt to and thrive in changing conditions. Join us as we learn from industry and community leaders from across the food and agricultural landscape who are helping to build a more resilient food system through their innovative enterprises!

Learn more [here](#).

Open Space Conference

Thursday, May 14, 8:30am – 5:00pm

Craneway Pavilion, Richmond, CA

The 2015 Open Space Conference will focus on experiments, attempts, and lessons learned across the broad field of land conservation. Join 500 Bay Area leaders in conservation, parks and recreation, and resource management – as well as leaders in health, business, and policy – to learn how we can try, learn and repeat individually and collectively. Speakers

include CalCAN's Renata Brillinger, Valentin Lopez, Mayor Tom Butt, and more!

Learn more [here](#).

Jobs

Director, Regional Food Systems Program Ag Innovations Network, Sebastopol, CA

Ag Innovations Network is seeking a Program Director to lead efforts in developing and implementing creative projects to strengthen food systems in California and beyond. The Program Director will create and manage powerful, multi-sector collaborations to imagine and create a better food system for people, business, and the environment. Projects will span a range of community, public health, environmental, social justice, and economic development topics on a range of geographic scales from the local to the state level.

Apply by submitting a letter explaining how and why you can effectively develop and manage multi-stakeholder initiatives to create a better food system for all (cover letter); a curriculum vita or resume; and the names and contact information for three professional references to jobs@aginnovations.org. This position is open until filled.

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