



News from the California Climate & Agriculture Network

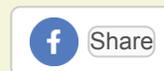
August 24, 2015

Senate Bill 367 Final Committee Hearing on Wednesday

Senate Bill 367, the Agriculture Climate Benefits Act, will be considered in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on August 26.

Sponsored by CalCAN and CAFF and authored by Senator Lois Wolk, SB 367 proposes investing \$25 million of the state's cap-and-trade revenue in 2015-16 to start a new funding program to incentivize on-farm demonstration projects that build soil, protect wildlife habitat, conserve water and generate renewable energy. The program would be run by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

With overwhelming and bipartisan support, the bill flew



through the Assembly Agriculture Committee and the Natural Resources Committee earlier this summer. If it clears the Appropriations Committee on Wednesday, SB 367 will be considered by the full Assembly no later than September 11, and if passed, it will be on Governor Brown's desk.

Stay tuned for the chance to show your support with a call to Governor Brown!

[Read more...](#)



New Research Shows Central Valley's Extreme Heat Linked to Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Scientists suggest that the Central Valley's extreme heat is linked to rising levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. A [new study](#), led by Roberto Mera with the Union of Concerned Scientists, reports that higher humidity and warmer night temperatures are increasing the severity of recent heat waves.

“In the Central Valley, that has consequences for people who work outdoors, including Latino farmworkers, and people who don’t have access to air conditioning,” Mera said.

According to Mera, this research poses important questions about climate justice, and offers a science-based framework for developing methods to both reduce GHG emissions and protect vulnerable communities.

[Read more...](#)

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

[Learn more...](#)

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USDA Announces Conservation Incentives for Working Grass, Range, and Pasture Lands

Farmers and ranchers can apply for funding from the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands initiative beginning September 1 to help conserve working grasslands, rangeland and pastureland.

The CRP–Grasslands initiative will provide annual payments of up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land to participants who establish long–term, resource–conserving covers that reduce nutrient runoff and erosion and in some cases also sequester carbon. Cost–share assistance also is available for the covers and other practices that support rotational grazing, benefit wildlife, or provide other ecosystem services. Participants may still conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow, or harvest for seed production, conduct fire rehabilitation, and construct firebreaks and fences.

[Read more...](#)

Organic Farming Research Foundation Seeks Abstracts for Symposium

Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) and the Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension (KARE) Center invite the submission of research abstracts for presentation at the 2016 Organic Agriculture Research Symposium (OARS), taking place Jan. 18 – 19, in Pacific Grove, CA, immediately before the Ecological Farming Association’s annual EcoFarm Conference.

The symposium will feature researchers from all disciplines related to organic farming and food systems, and other systems of sustainable agriculture that employ techniques compatible with organic standards. Research topics of interest include: biological and cultural practices to manage pests, holistic animal health, value–added production and

processing without synthetic food additives and processing aids, organic farm economics, marketing and consumer behavior; public policies to facilitate the transition to organic farming, and many more.

The deadline for submissions is August 31, 2015. Abstracts should be sent to Brian Baker at bbp33@cornell.edu. Researchers with questions about the OARS symposium can call Baker at 541-228-0876, or OFRF at 831-426-6606.

[Learn more...](#)

Events

Hoes Down Harvest Celebration

Oct. 3 & 4, Full Belly Farm, Capay Valley

Two fun-filled days of events and seminars for all ages will take place 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 28th annual event offers the public a special opportunity to connect with rural life and deepen our understanding of the local food system.

The event is a fundraiser for several sustainable agriculture and family farm organizations, and CalCAN was a recipient in 2014.

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

Artisans of the Grasslands: Crafting the Future of Food and Agriculture

Oct. 2 – 4, San Francisco

This unprecedented event will be a venue for producers and consumers to come together and celebrate the cadre of people embracing the holistic paradigm shift in ecology, health, and diet. The event is organized by the Savory Institute and focuses on holistic grassland management.

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

Central Coast Rangeland Coalition Fall 2015 Meeting

Oct. 15, 8:45am – 4:30pm, Hollister

This meeting provides an opportunity for ranchers, regulators, scientists and others to develop a more nuanced understanding of each other's perspectives and of the possibilities to manage for highly functional water cycles on rangelands. The Central Coast Rangelands Coalition hopes that continued communication between these groups will

lead to improved water quality and quantity flowing through rangelands.

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

Restoration Agriculture & Farm Scale Permaculture Workshop with Mark Shepard
Oct. 30 – Nov. 1, Orella Ranch, Santa Barbara County

Restoration Agriculture offers vibrant, productive, real-world alternatives to save water and restore our soils. Spend three days with Mark Shepard, at Orella Ranch on the Gaviota Coast learning the ins and outs of Restoration Agriculture for resilience in times of flood or drought. Topics include: biome identification and ecology; perennial crop establishment, maintenance and breeding; pruning, coppicing and grafting; integrated multi-species grazing; on-farm renewable energy and more.

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

Jobs

Biologists (2), Point Blue Conservation Science
Merced, CA and Mariposa, CA
Applications due Friday, August 28

The Partner Biologists will actively participate with NRCS Field Conservationists, working lands producers, and other resource professionals in the development of ranch and farm conservation plans, including resources assessments, conservation practice design and implementation. This position will provide technical assistance to working lands producers whose primary focus is on the implementation of conservation in rangeland, wetland, and riparian habitats.

For more information, email bowens@pointblue.org

Administrative Council Seats, Western Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)
Nominations accepted until November 6

SARE is seeking nominations or self-nominations for the following seats:

- Organic Farmer/Rancher
- Sustainable Farmer/Rancher
- Conventional Farmer/Rancher
- Tropical Farmer/Rancher
- NGO/Nonprofit Representative

The Administrative Council, working with Western SARE

Regional Coordinator and staff in Utah, Wyoming, and Montana, sets guidelines, develops calls for proposals, and establishes project priorities. The council tries to ensure that funded projects have the appropriate balance and diversity that can represent the region's wide-ranging geography and subject matter.

Learn more [here](#).

Contact: Teryl Roper, Western SARE Regional Coordinator:
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