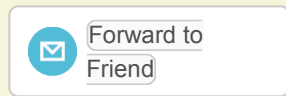
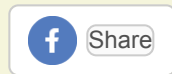




News from the California Climate & Agriculture Network

February 15, 2016



Join us for CalCAN's Lobby Day

Date: March 9

Time: 8:30am – 5:00pm, followed by a reception

This is your chance to communicate with policymakers about the challenges climate change presents to farmers and ranchers, and what growers need to play a constructive role in California's response to climate change. It is important for legislators to hear directly from farmers, ranchers, agriculture professionals and other constituents. Your presence is critical so that legislators hear from their constituents and from people involved in agriculture who understand what is at stake.

You do not need to have deep familiarity with the policy details—there will be team leaders in each group to provide that information.

To find out more, please contact Renata Brillinger at renata@calclimateag.org or (707) 823-8278.



California Farmers Cheer Renewable Energy Decision

At the end of January, farmers across California cheered as state regulators upheld the system of [Net Energy Metering](#) (NEM), which allows easy and affordable renewable energy generation on farms, ranches, businesses, and residences. CalCAN has played a leadership role over the past couple of years to win this victory on behalf of California growers.

[Assembly Bill 327](#) (2013), which required the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to review and possibly revise NEM, had raised concern about its future.

The Jan. 28th decision also upheld a net metering provision of special importance to farmers, [Net Energy Metering Aggregation](#) (NEMA), which was made possible by [a bill](#) introduced by Senator Lois Wolk (D-Davis) on which CalCAN was a lead supporter.



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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Funding for Conservation Agriculture



\$30 million Available for Water Stewardship Training, Technical Assistance

Deadline: March 30, 2016

In 2014, California voters passed Proposition 1, the \$7.5 billion water bond. \$30 million of those bond funds are now available for agricultural water use efficiency projects, including training and technical assistance efforts to improve [on-farm water stewardship](#).

Examples of some much-needed projects that could be supported by this Agricultural Water Use Efficiency program, run by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), include:

- Promoting water-saving soil management practices with training, technical assistance, research and demonstration
- Training for irrigation scheduling and monitoring:
- Complementing [CDFA's SWEEP](#) granting efforts for on-farm water conservation

[Read more...](#)

Financial Incentives for Climate-Smart Agriculture for 2016

The state of California is rolling out several new financial incentive programs to encourage the use of agricultural climate solutions that help the state meet its ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals. The state's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, derived from cap-and-trade money, supports the new and evolving programs summarized in this [fact sheet](#).





Presenters at the EcoFarm Conference discussing climate & ag programs. Clockwise from top left: Jenny Lester-Moffit, CDFCA; Jeanne Merrill, CalCAN; Kathryn Lyddan, Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust

Conservation Stewardship Program Funding Available

Initial application form due March 31

USDA has announced the 2016 sign-up period for Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the nation's largest working lands conservation program. Through CSP, farmers and ranchers can be rewarded for improving the resource conditions on their land, including soil, air and habitat quality, water quality and quantity, and energy conservation. Conservation efforts could include enhancing soil health, cover crops, buffer strips, rotational livestock grazing. Growers must complete a quick, easy form by March 31st to start the process.

A detailed CSP program description and application for producers are [here](#).

The initial application form is available [here](#).

Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Compliance: Local Food Producer Outreach, Education, and Training

Letter of intent due March 4

FDA is accepting applications for Local Food Producer Outreach, Education, and Training for the purpose of enhancing food safety and FSMA compliance in fiscal year 2016. Projects will research and identify training, outreach and education, and technical assistance needs, deliver outreach and training, and develop and adapt materials that facilitate the integration and understanding of federal food safety regulations and guidance among small and mid-size farms and businesses, while taking into account diversified, sustainable, organic, and identity-preserved agricultural production and processing practices.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Events

California Small Farm Conference

March 5–8, Sacramento, California

This is the state's premier gathering for small-scale farmers, ranchers, and farmers market managers. The event includes tours, workshops, networking opportunities, and field courses. The keynote speaker is Mark Bittman, one of America's beloved, best-known and most widely respected food writers. Topics will include farmland leases, land access, farm succession, financial decisions, and on-farm training.

For more information and to register, [click here](#).

Regrarians Integrated and Real Farm Planning Training

March 9–18, Orella Ranch, Gaviota, CA (Santa Barbara County)

Join us for an intensive 10-day training with the intention of accelerating the development of regenerative land management, offering a participatory balance of practical theory and hands-on decision making and practice. Topics covered in depth include: Climate, Geography, Water, Access, Forestry, Buildings, Fencing, Soils, Economy, and Energy. The instructor is Darren Doherty, a farmer, developer, author and trainer with a career-long focus on the profitable and regenerative retrofit of broadacre landscapes. This training is offered by Regrarians (www.regrarians.org/) and hosted by Orella Ranch.

[Click here](#) to register.

Run Happy Bee Happy

April 23, Burroughs Family Farms, Snelling

The event will kick off at 9:00am with the 5k Run/Walk followed by the Kids' Run. This 5k Run/Walk and Kids' Run course will take place along organic almond orchards that are planted on rolling hills. Race participants will get a running tour of [Burroughs Family Farms](#) organic and sustainable practices, including their solar panel sites, farm-made compost, biodiverse beneficial hedgerows, and organic pastured hens.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Jobs

Agriculture Specialist/Outreach Coordinator

The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) seeks a motivated, enthusiastic sustainable agriculture specialist/outreach coordinator to serve our Gulf States and Southeast regions. This is an excellent opportunity for someone who has a combination of education and experience in agriculture, communications, marketing, and food policy. The specialist will provide technical assistance to farmers and growers, conduct NCAT outreach activities, and strengthen relationships with current partners and build new partnerships. The position may be located in either the Jackson, Mississippi, or Fayetteville, Arkansas office.

[Click here](#) for the full job description and to download an application package.

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

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