



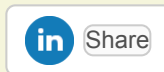
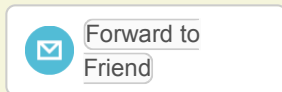
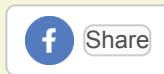
## News from the California Climate & Agriculture Network

May 20, 2016

### Governor Brown's Climate Smart Agriculture Initiatives

The next few weeks are busy ones for the Governor and state legislators as they face a deadline for budget passage for the new fiscal year starting July 1st. Included in the budget is the approximately \$2 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). Governor Brown released his May revise budget a week ago and maintained the \$115 million he proposed in January for new and existing climate smart agriculture programs, as follows:

- Healthy Soils Initiative: \$20 million
- State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP): \$20 million
- Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program: \$40 million
- Dairy Methane: \$35 million



Also last week, the Healthy Soils bill, Senate Bill 1350, was amended following successful negotiations between CalCAN, Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) and California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Senator Lois Wolk, author of the bill, and her staff brokered the discussions and were crucial to the groups finding common ground. SB 1350 is a bill similar to the Agriculture Climate Benefits Act ([SB 367](#)) that CalCAN and CAFF co-sponsored last year to establish the Healthy Soils Initiative.

Next week, look for an action alert on GGRF — we need your help delivering the message to legislators that agriculture should be part of the state's climate change investments. And, if and when SB 1350 moves to the full Senate for a vote, we'll ask again for you to call your Senator to urge their support.

Stay tuned! And in the meantime, [click here](#) to read the details.



### **Dairies Call on Legislators to Support Composting, Pasturing for Methane Reductions**

California is moving full steam ahead in its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the dairy sector. A state emissions-reduction strategy, released last week, proposes to slash the amount of methane released from dairy manure by 75% over the next 15 years.

Achieving these considerable climate benefits, according to the Air Resource Board's (ARB) [Proposed Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy](#), will require changes to the management of over one million California dairy cows. It will also require significant investment in a diversity of methane reduction strategies.

In response, a group of prominent dairy producers and processors have [submitted a letter](#) to legislators calling for investment in manure management strategies that go beyond anaerobic digester technologies. This request is consistent with the basic conclusion of ARB's new analysis, which suggests that we must pursue a variety of approaches – from composting to pasturing to digesters – in order to make a

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

[Learn more...](#)

**Subscribe to our  
blog**

**Donate to CalCAN**

#### **In this Issue:**

*Climate Smart Ag  
Initiatives*

*SWEEP Progress  
Report*

*SWEEP Technical  
Assistance Funding*

*Dairies Call for  
Compost, Pasture  
Solutions to Methane  
Emissions*

*CalCAN Summit  
Save-the-Date*

*CA Farm  
Demonstration  
Network*

*Leopold Award Call  
for Nominations*

*Events*

meaningful dent in dairy methane emissions.

[Read more...](#)



### **SWEEP Progress Report**

A new climate-smart agriculture program, funded by cap-and-trade auction proceeds, is delivering significant on-farm water savings and greenhouse gas emission reductions, according to a recently released [CalCAN report](#).

Since the [State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program](#) (SWEEP) began as an emergency relief effort at the height of California's severe drought, in 2014, the program has funded over 200 projects to improve on-farm water use efficiency. These projects are resulting in annual savings of 37,490 acre-feet of water—approximately 12.2 billion gallons/year—and estimated annual emissions reductions of 11,278 Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e—the equivalent of taking 2,374 passenger vehicles off the road each year.

"We've found that, when given the opportunity, farmers are delivering water savings and reductions in greenhouse gases," said Jeanne Merrill, CalCAN's Policy Director, "Now, we must extend the state's climate change and drought program to reach all farmers. Our report details how to do that."

[Read more...](#)

### **SWEEP Technical Assistance Funding**

CDFA is now accepting applications from non-profit organizations, California academic institutions and California Resource Conservation Districts for grant funds to provide technical assistance to applicants for grants from the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP). Applications are due May 20, 2016. [Click here](#) for more information.

## CalCAN Summit: Save the Date!

CalCAN will host the 5<sup>th</sup> California Climate and Agriculture Summit on Feb. 28 and March 1, 2017. Join us for this popular gathering of some of the leading producers, researchers, agriculture professionals and advocates working on agricultural solutions to climate change. The event will be held at the UC Davis Conference Center.

The event sells out, so mark your calendars now and save the date!



## Introducing the California Farm Demonstration Network

UC Cooperative Extension, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and others are joining forces to launch an outreach and education network of farmers in California's Central Valley to share practical experiences in "growing" healthy soil. This new California Farm Demonstration Network (CFDN) builds upon the efforts of [Dr. Jeff Mitchell](#) and the [Conservation Agriculture Systems Innovation \(CASI\) Center](#) which for many years has focused on on-farm conservation tillage strategies.

CFDN held its first two farm visits in May, and will offer two more in June (see below), to demonstrate how long-term goals for healthy soil are being achieved at each farm—without compromising production. Farmers using various soil health practices (such as cover crops, conservation tillage and more) will discuss their soil health management systems and experiences. Network partners, including representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, UC Cooperative Extension, Resource Conservation Districts and other partners will also be on hand to explain monitoring and evaluation work being done on the farms.

"Soil health management systems show promise for maintaining and improving production, while reducing or eliminating many common resource concerns including soil erosion, nutrient loss, and soil degradation associated with the loss of soil organic carbon," said CFDN coordinator Jeff Mitchell. "An important component of these on-farm demonstrations is monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of

conservation practices.”

Producers, conservationists and other interested individuals are encouraged to attend either of the following farm visits, both starting at 10:00am:

Wed., June 15 · T&D Willey Farms, 13886 Road 20, Madera, CA

Fri., June 24 · Sano Farms, 44935-B West Shields Ave., Firebaugh, CA

For more information, contact Jeff Mitchell at [jpmitchell@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jpmitchell@ucdavis.edu) or 559-303-9689.



### UC Rangelands Initiative

UC Rangelands is a new initiative launched by the University of California and UC Cooperative Extension to develop and advance science-based knowledge to diverse management and policy stakeholders to promote agricultural and environmental sustainability on California's grazing lands. It provides a one-stop-shop for rangeland research information and resources: see [rangelands.ucdavis.edu/](http://rangelands.ucdavis.edu/).

Given the extent and severity of the current drought, the team at UC Rangelands is interviewing livestock producers to learn more about the real impacts of this drought on their operations. The goal is to interview 200 beef and sheep producers. Interested in participating or want more information? Please contact Dan Macon ([dmacon@ucdavis.edu](mailto:dmacon@ucdavis.edu); (530) 889-7324), Leslie Roche ([lmroche@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lmroche@ucdavis.edu); (530) 752-5583), or Tracy Schohr ([tk schohr@ucdavis.edu](mailto:tk schohr@ucdavis.edu); (530) 754-8766).

### Leopold Award Call for Nominations

Are you a California farmer, rancher or forester committed to sound environmental stewardship? Know someone who is? Sustainable Conservation, Sand County Foundation and the California Farm Bureau Federation are seeking nominees for the 2016 California Leopold Conservation Award. The award recognizes private landowners' commitment to responsible environmental stewardship and land



management. It underscores the fact that many private landowners are on the front lines of conservation and should be recognized for protecting the environment.

Two of the farms represented on CalCAN's Farmer Advisory Council have been honored in recent years— [Full Belly Farm](#) won in 2014, and in 2012, Ward and Rose Marie Burroughs of Burroughs Family Farms were finalists.

Click [here](#) for nomination form. The deadline for nominations is July 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Events

### **California Climate Change Scoping Plan: The Role of Agriculture**

May 26, 2016 • 12–1:30pm

UC Center Sacramento, 1130 K Street, , Room LL3, Sacramento, CA

Sponsors: Berkeley Food Institute, Global Food Initiative, University of California Center Sacramento

Speakers: Professor Louise Jackson, UC Davis and Professor Dennis Baldocchi, UC Berkeley

The event is free, and lunch will be served. Register [here](#) by May 23. For more information, click [here](#).

### **Grain Growers and Dry Farmed/Regenerative Ag Collaborative Meet-Up**

June 5, 10 – 1:30pm

SLO Grange, San Luis Obispo

The meeting is being organized to engage in a conversation focused on a grain cooperative and a regional dry farmed/regenerative ag collaborative to support and nurture these efforts. It is part of California Center for Cooperative Development's (CCCD) program to create cooperative solutions to Central Coast grain farming issues.

*Copyright © 2016 California Climate and Agriculture Network, All rights reserved.  
Thank you for your interest in the California Climate and Agriculture Network.*

**Our mailing address is:**

California Climate and Agriculture Network  
PO Box 1366  
Sebastopol, CA 95473

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)