



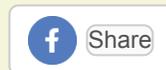
## News from the California Climate & Agriculture Network

June 16, 2016

### Investments in Climate Smart Agriculture Delayed *Budget Leaders To Act this Summer – Call Your State Reps NOW*

This week the State Legislature sent the FY 2016–17 budget to Governor Brown without deciding how the state would spend billions in climate change investments. Among the programs waiting for a decision on funding are the [Healthy Soils Initiative](#), the [State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program](#) (SWEET), the [Dairy Methane Program](#) and the [Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program](#). What gives?

CalCAN has joined with others in the environmental and conservation communities calling for climate investments now. California has billions in the bank that it can invest now to fund tangible projects that not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also make our communities healthier.



You can voice your support for investments in sustainable agriculture solutions to climate change by calling your Senator and Assembly member.

[Read more...](#)

## 5th California Climate and Agriculture Summit Call for Workshop and Poster Presentations

Feb. 28th and March 1st, 2017  
UC Davis Conference Center



Please save the date for the 5<sup>th</sup> California Climate and Agriculture Summit, organized and hosted by the California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN). The Summit takes place on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the UC Davis Conference Center with a full day of plenary, workshop and poster presentations and ending with a wine and cheese reception. On the following day, March 1st, you can choose to join a farm tour in the Yolo County area, or a Policymaker Education Day at the capitol where we will meet with state legislators and agency staff to share with them the climate solutions agriculture can offer and discuss current policy issues.

The Summit explores the science, policy and practice of climate change and agriculture in California. Participants include farmers and ranchers, agency staff, agricultural professionals, policymakers and advocates.

### Call for Proposals

CalCAN is soliciting proposals for workshops and poster presentations for the 2017 Summit. [Click here](#) for more information.



### CDFA Framework for Healthy Soils Program

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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In mid-May, at a meeting of the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) released its draft framework for the new Healthy Soils Initiative, a program aimed at providing financial incentives for farmers and ranchers to increase soil carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The new framework can be found by [clicking here](#) (starting on page 12).

CDFA proposes spending \$13.8 million in the first year of the program on financial incentives for growers to build soil carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions overall. An additional \$4 million is proposed for on-farm demonstration projects that bring together agricultural partners, including growers, to field test management practices that provide climate benefits.

CDFA is soliciting public comment on the draft framework and its future iterations from now until August 2016.

[Read more...](#)



**CalCAN Event**  
**Climate Smart Agriculture: Policy & Practice**  
**July 20, 2016 • Healdsburg, CA**

Join Senator Mike McGuire, Assemblymember Jim Wood and local agriculture leaders to learn about the contributions agriculture can make in addressing the climate crisis. You will hear about statewide policy initiatives to support farmers in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and draw down carbon, as well as what local farmers and organizations are doing on the ground.

Speakers will include:

- Senator Mike McGuire
- Assemblymember Jim Wood
- Renata Brillinger, CalCAN Executive Director
- Josh Prigge, Fetzer/Bonterra Vineyards
- Mike Griffin, Organic Valley
- Valerie Minton, Sonoma Resource Conservation District
- Karen Gaffney, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District

For more information and to register for this free event, [click here](#).



## **\$4.3 Million for CA Farmers for Climate-Smart Agriculture Practices**

During the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Climate Month of May, [Secretary Vilsack announced](#) an additional \$72.3 million for soil health investments to support the department's 10 Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture. Secretary Vilsack established the USDA climate change initiative just over a year ago in preparation for last year's [Paris Climate Conference](#). The initiative aims to increase agricultural practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration in agriculture and forests.

This additional funding is being distributed through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), where each state will have the discretion to determine which Climate Change Building Blocks to focus their additional funds on. This is the first time EQIP funding has been explicitly allocated for climate-smart agriculture practices. California NRCS has received \$4.3 million of this \$72.3 million allocation.

[Read more...](#)

## **Climate-Smart Soils**

In the April 7, 2016 issue of *Nature*, a group of researchers penned a Perspective piece on the topic of the emerging science and practice of soil-based greenhouse gas mitigation. They highlight state-of-the-art soil greenhouse gas research, summarize mitigation practices and potentials, identify gaps in data and understanding and suggest ways to address the gaps. The following are some of the salient points in CalCAN's view, though the paper is worth reading in its entirety.

The authors provide citations for numerous agricultural practices that increase soil carbon, including:

- Planting crops with greater root mass so carbon is deposited more deeply and remains longer in the soil profile
- Using crop rotations that increase carbon inputs, and shifting from annuals to perennials
- Increase residues on soils
- Reduce tillage
- Use of cover crops (which also reduce nitrate leaching)
- Application of compost or biochar, which provide external carbon sources that have residence times of several decades or more
- Management of forested land for fire prevention
- Optimize livestock grazing density

The authors make note of the fact that there is emerging scientific evidence that stable carbon pools in the soil are likely generated by microbial metabolism rather than directly from plant tissue, and they flag the need to better understand these interactions in order to develop methods for manipulating the soil-plant root microbiome.

The authors acknowledge that there are challenges unique to agriculture that must be addressed to provide climate benefits, and state that though mitigation levels on individual farms may be low, the benefits can accrue across the vast acreages under production. The authors conclude that there is a difference between what is technically feasible and what is possible given economic, social and political realities. They point out that realizing the potential for climate mitigation using improved soil management will depend on policies that incentivize land managers to adopt them, as well as cost-effective science-based metrics—likely computer models—to evaluate performance. Importantly, they stress the need for engagement of producers with education and outreach to establish a “new paradigm for climate-smart soil management.”

[Click here](#) to read the full paper.



### **Rich and Evelyne Rominger Recognized for Leadership in Agriculture**

UC Davis alumni Richard and Evelyne Rominger recently received the UC Davis Medal, the highest honor the university presents to an individual. They have played prominent roles at UC Davis, in the community and in statewide and national agriculture for decades. Evelyne has also been active in several area health associations, as well as a lifelong advocate for gender equality and social justice issues. Rich served as Secretary of CDFA starting in 1977, and 16 years later was appointed USDA Deputy Secretary by President Clinton. He has held numerous advisory roles on UC Davis and regional committees and boards, often serving as a liaison between UC and the agricultural community. Rich has served as a farmer advisor to CalCAN since our founding seven years ago.

### **Nominations Open for Governor's Environmental &**

## Economic Leadership Award

The Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award (GEELA) is California's highest environmental honor. The program recognizes individuals, organizations, and businesses that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made notable, voluntary contributions in conserving California's precious resources, protecting and enhancing our environment, building public-private partnerships and strengthening the state's economy. CalCAN farmer advisor Russ Lester of [Dixon Ridge Farms](#) is a past recipient.

Applications for the 2016 awards are being accepted through Friday, July 29, 2016. [Click here](#) for more information.

## CalCAN at CalPoly

In May, CalCAN's Renata Brillinger participated in a panel titled "Climate Smart Agriculture" at CalPoly, organized by the Center for Sustainability. Also on the panel were Jeff Creque of the Carbon Cycle Institute, and Jean-Pierre Wolfe, Wolfe Vineyards. [Click here](#) to view a video of the presentation.

## Events

### **Organic Stone Fruit Jubilee**

**June 25, 5:00pm – 8:30pm**

**Clovis, CA**

Join the Ecological Farming Association for the year's most delicious Central Valley event. This fun-filled evening includes fruit tasting and sales of over 60 varieties of peaches, plums, nectarines, apricots, and pluots! Enjoy live entertainment, farm tours, a kids craft corner, jam making, a Japanese tea ceremony, flower arranging, stone fruit drinks, artisan treats and pies. Dr. Mario Sifuentez from UC Merced will be the evening's keynote speaker.

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

### **2016 Soil Not Oil International Conference**

**August 5 & 6**

**Richmond, CA**

The 2016 Soil Not Oil International Conference links the fight to stop the extraction of fossil fuels while offering soil based solutions to decarbonize the atmosphere and mitigate climate change, exploring traditional, local, organic and sustainable practices of food production. We are committed to restore ecosystems, honoring nature and biodiversity.

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

### **Innovations on the Land: Managing for Change**

**August 9 & 10**

**Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, CA**

This national symposium, organized by the Sand County Foundation, will

bring together the nation's leading private landowner conservationists and leaders from academia, government and non-government organizations to exchange ideas and learn about the most innovative approaches to responsibly managing agricultural lands in the face of sweeping change. Topics include changes related to climate, ecosystem services markets, consumer and buyer demand for sustainably produced food and emerging land ownership patterns.

[Click here](#) for more information.

## Jobs

### **National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) Policy Director; Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator Washington DC**

NSAC is seeking a Policy Director, a passionate, highly experienced policy professional who will build upon the Coalition's accomplishments over the past 28 years. The Coalition establishes and secures support and funding for dozens of policies and programs that promote conservation; foster family farm agriculture; build new value-added and regional food markets and businesses; protect food system integrity; and support sustainable and organic research, education and extension. The Policy Director shares in the leadership of the organization with the Managing Director.

NSAC also has an opening for a Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator to help build grassroots power and win campaigns through coordination of NSAC's 100+ member organizations and outreach to their respective grassroots membership.

[Click here](#) for information about both positions.

### **Point Blue Conservation Science Rangeland Watershed Initiative Partner Biologist Two positions in Livermore and Vacaville**

The Rangeland Watershed Initiative Partner Biologist is a partnership position between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Point Blue Conservation Science that will focus on providing *value added* delivery of wildlife conservation programs on working lands through Farm Bill and other federal and state funding programs. The Partner Biologist 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. [Click here](#) for more information.

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

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