

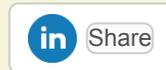
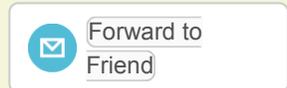


News from the California Climate & Agriculture Network

July 18, 2016

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

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



Please save the date for the 5th *California Climate and Agriculture Summit*, organized and hosted by the California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN). The Summit takes place on February 28th and March 1st, 2017.

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.

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



Water Efficiency Grants for Farmers & Ranchers

Grant amounts: Up to \$200,000

Due: August 5, 2016

For more information: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/>

The CDFA is accepting applications in an \$18 million funding round for on-farm projects that provide water savings and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET) provides grants for activities such as:

- upgrades to more efficient pumps
- conversion to drip
- installation of solar panels to produce renewable energy
- improved water storage and/or recycling
- soil moisture monitoring and scheduling

Up to \$200,000 per agricultural operation is available, and a 50% match is recommended but not required. Applications are due August 5, 2016. View the program's webpage and application materials by clicking [here](#).

We are particularly excited to announce that, for the first time, free [Technical Assistance](#) is being offered to SWEET applicants. We encourage you to attend one of the 23 in-depth technical assistance workshops throughout California. View the list of workshops by clicking [here](#).

CDFA is also offering four grant application workshops in Yolo, Imperial, San

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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Luis Obispo, and Fresno Counties. View the list of info sessions by clicking [here](#). For a helpful overview of the application resources available on the SWEEP webpage, watch [this short video](#).

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CalCAN has advocated for funding, technical support, and continual improvements to SWEEP since the program's inception. The program is funded by proceeds from the state's cap-and-trade auction, and it has already helped hundreds of California growers take positive steps to reduce water use and increase energy efficiency.



Influencing California's Approach to Dairy Methane Reductions

As we have discussed in previous blogs, California is moving full steam ahead to cut dairy methane emissions in the state. The timeline is certainly ambitious – a current proposal from the Air Resources Board (ARB), called the Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy, puts the target at a 75% reduction in methane emissions from dairy manure management over the next fourteen years.

A bill that would require the Air Resources Board plan to be implemented, authored by Senator Ricardo Lara (D – Bell Gardens), recently passed the Senate by a single vote. Should Lara's SB 1383 advance to the Governor's desk, it would require the state to achieve a 40% reduction in overall methane emissions by 2030, from across the agriculture, waste, and oil and gas sectors.

The majority of those reductions would come from dairy and livestock operations – 26 Million Metric Tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (26 MMT CO₂e) per year, or the equivalent of taking 5.5 million passenger vehicles off the road annually.

[Read more...](#)

USDA Climate Smart Initiative

USDA released a report on the first year results of their Climate Change Building Block efforts last month, along with their 3-year plan for the initiative as it continues. USDA developed the Climate Change Building

Blocks to guide their work in supporting Climate Smart Agriculture, allowing farmers, ranchers, and forest owners to adapt to and help mitigate for the changing climate, through practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration in agriculture and forests.

CalCAN is pleased to see the USDA acknowledging the essential role natural and working lands can contribute to mitigating climate change: “As this update shows, USDA is confident that the agricultural and forestry communities can continue to play an important role in reducing GHG emissions and increasing carbon storage in the Nation’s forests and soils.” We have also identified some significant highlights, concerns, and recommendations.

[Read more...](#)



Farm Tour with Environmental Advocates

In mid-June, CalCAN organized a farm tour at Full Belly Farm in the Capay Valley. Representatives from 21 environmental advocacy organizations were welcomed by co-owners Judith Redmond and Paul Muller, who shared the many ways the farm is a leader and model of environmental and social responsibility, as well as the on-the-ground realities and challenges of maintaining their high standards while staying economically viable. The following recap of the day was provided by Paul in the farm’s CSA newsletter, and is reposted here with permission.

We had a visit this week from a group of about 35 representatives of different environmental groups that are working in Sacramento on varied issues from water to waste to climate or carbon issues. This was a tour organized by the California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN) – a group working on agriculture’s response to climate issues. We had invited these folks to the farm as a way to familiarize them with a farm and talk about the issues that we, as farmers, grapple with each day. We had hoped to open a dialogue about farming in order to challenge these groups to develop a food and farming platform – to help them to define the directions that agriculture can move to create more healthy and biologically diverse farms – while understanding the economic realities that farmers face. It is clear that the gulf is substantial for many who work in policy areas that

touch on agriculture.

[Read more...](#)



NSAC Organic Buffer Guide

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) released a publication called *[Organic Farmers' Guide to the Conservation Reserve Program Field Border Buffer Initiative](#)*. The guide is intended to assist organic farmers interested in accessing the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) new Organic Buffer Initiative that provides farmers with rental payments, cost-share payments, and in many cases incentive payments for land that is set-aside for conservation buffers for a period of 10–15 years. The initiative helps organic producers limit the impacts of pesticide drift, enhance their conservation systems, and meet National Organic Program (NOP) certification requirements for natural resource and biodiversity conservation.

NSAC's guide includes eligibility and application information, program basics, detailed descriptions of key conservation practices and associated payments, as well as two producer profiles and resources for additional information. Click [here](#) to download the full guide.

Know Your Soil: Assessment Tool Offers Insights Into Better Soil Health Management

To improve your soil—to realize its full potential as a powerful driver of farm sustainability—first you must know your soil. A new kind of soil assessment created by Cornell University (available at <http://soilhealth.cals.cornell.edu>) offers farmers an in-depth understanding of their soil that goes far beyond traditional soil tests. In turn, the knowledge farmers gain empowers them to make management decisions that will improve their soil health. [Click here](#) to watch the video.

Events

Food, Environment, Climate Change "Pop Up"
Asian Art Museum, San Francisco
August 4, 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Anthony Myint and Karen Leibowitz, artists and restaurateurs, will take over the museum for an evening of film, panel presentations and more on the intersection of food and the environment. The evening will include how you can voice your support for the Healthy Soils Initiative. [Click here](#) for more information.

Jobs

Berkeley Food Institute Communications Specialist

The Communications Specialist will oversee a comprehensive communications program for the Berkeley Food Institute. The position works with the BFI team to develop and execute a long and short term organizational communication strategy, aimed to achieve high-level visibility and impact of BFI's programs. This is a one-year, 100% FTE position, with possibility of converting to a career staff position, funding pending. Applications deadline: July 29, 2016. [Click here](#) for details.

SARE Outreach Content Development Specialist College Park, MD

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) is a grants and education program that has advanced agricultural innovation that promotes profitability, stewardship of the land, air and water, and quality of life for farmers, ranchers and their communities. This position is involved in all aspects of content development and dissemination to a wide variety of audiences using many different communications formats and strategies. The deadline to apply is July 29. [Click here](#) for more information.

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