

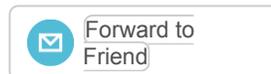
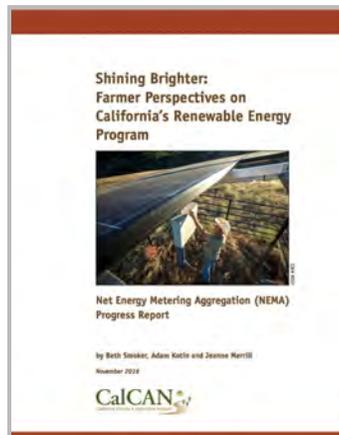


News from the California Climate & Agriculture Network

November 17, 2016

New CalCAN Report Features Farmers' Experiences with Renewable Energy

California farmers and ranchers produce more renewable energy than their counterparts [in any other state in the country](#). On-farm solar, wind and bioenergy production offer agricultural producers the opportunity to offset their energy needs, save money and contribute to the state's energy and climate goals.



CalCAN recently interviewed farmers and ranchers who have installed solar, as well as solar industry representatives involved with agricultural projects, to better understand what's working and what can be improved in the state's efforts to encourage on-farm renewable energy.

This week, we are releasing a progress report that draws on their experiences and insights to tell this story from the field level. We specifically look at one program intended to make it easier and more attractive for California farmers and ranchers to produce renewable energy: [Net Energy Metering Aggregation \(NEMA\)](#).

A brief summary of our recommendations for improving the program and accelerating the successes of on-farm renewable energy in California can be found on [our blog](#). The full report is available [here](#).

Take a Look at the 2017 Climate and Agriculture Summit Program

-- Earlybird Registration Opens December 1st --

We are excited to release the program for our 5th California Climate and Agriculture Summit on Feb. 28th and March 1st, which you can find [here](#). It has been exciting to see how much the science, policies, and practices addressing climate and agriculture have advanced every two years, and this year will be no different. We hope you will join us to learn about new incentive programs for climate-friendly agriculture, the latest research, and the challenges and successes of farmers learning to reduce greenhouse gases and adapt to a changing climate. Earlybird registration will open December 1st — stay tuned!

We are also honored to have the support of so many sponsors—you can find the full list [here](#). If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please email Brian at brian@calclimateag.org.

CalCAN Hiring a Policy Intern

--Applications due: November 30, 2016 --

The policy intern will have the opportunity to assist in policy coordination, working with CalCAN's Policy Director and Associate Policy Director. Activities will include development of policy program materials; creation and implementation of research and writing projects; assisting with legislative tracking; and possibly event coordination. The intern will also have the opportunity to write blogs for our website and newsletter.

The intern will work an average of 15 hours per week on a flexible schedule from January through March, and will be based in either Sacramento or the East Bay. Start and end dates are negotiable. The position comes with a monthly

CalCAN is a statewide coalition that advances state and federal policy to realize the powerful climate solutions offered by sustainable and organic agriculture.

[Learn more...](#)

Save the Date!

CalCAN's 5th California Climate & Agriculture Summit will be on Feb. 28th & March 1st, 2017 at UC Davis. Registration opens Dec. 1st. [Learn more...](#)

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stipend of \$720.

For more information about the internship, including how to apply, click [here](#).



Digging Deeper into the Connections Between Climate and Biodiversity

In last month's newsletter, we shared the Wild Farm Alliance's new publication *Biodiversity Conservation: An Organic Farmer's and Certifier's Guide*. This month, we reflected on and offered our own analysis of one of the guide's central principles – that the well-being of our climate and biodiversity go hand in hand. If you haven't read the guide already, we encourage you to check out our [blogpost](#) on the topic and then dig deeper yourself.

Climate Leader Profile: Jean-Pierre Wolff of Wolff Vineyard



Jean-Pierre Wolff and his wife Elke bought their now 40-year-old [Wolff Vineyard](#) in 1999 and have become a model for enhancing on-farm resilience to climate change in San Luis Obispo's Edna Valley. Referring to his 125-acre vineyard as his "carbon management farm," Jean-Pierre employs a combination of healthy soil practices, water management strategies and energy saving techniques. For example, he plants cover crops between his rows of grapes, applies compost annually, reduces chemical fertilizer application, and manages irrigation with soil moisture monitors, efficient pumping (e.g., variable frequency drives) and gravity.

Not afraid of innovation, Jean-Pierre uses a unique tool – the yeoman’s plough – which causes minimal soil disturbance and provides for both increased carbon sequestration and soil permeability. Aware of the need to continuously adapt to his climate, Jean-Pierre has implemented a technique called “dry farming” on some of his grapes, in which he does not use any added water to irrigate parts of the vineyard.

A full description of Jean-Pierre’s climate-friendly farming practices is available [here](#) in our new fact sheet.

Post-Election: What’s Next for Food and Agriculture Policy?

From the [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#) (of which CalCAN is a member)

As we prepare for our first Administration change in eight years, the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) wants to ensure that a diverse coalition of family farmers and ranchers, conservationists, and local and regional food enthusiasts have a place at the table.

The election of any new President comes with many challenges and opportunities. In this time of change, it is more important than ever that we in the sustainable agriculture community make our priorities clear, and that we take the opportunity to continue to shape the direction of agricultural policy for the next four years and foreseeable future. As the dust of the election continues to settle, we offer a basic breakdown of where things stand.

Click [here](#) to read more.

2016 Food and Agriculture Legislation Tracker Now Available

The 4th annual Food and Agriculture Legislation Tracker has been released, a collaborative effort by Roots of Change and numerous food policy councils and organizational partners from across California. It offers a pithy analysis of wins and losses in the food and agriculture policy debates of the Legislature, framed by facts that reveal how good food and resilient agriculture are solutions to many challenges we face. CalCAN participated as a member of the Policy Work Group and provided input on the Ecological Farming section of the report. The report is available [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

The start-up of the new fiscal year means that many farm programs have put out Requests for Applications (RFAs) for their grant programs. While a flood of grant program announcements is generally good news, it can be easy to lose track of deadlines and other important information. In order to help you keep track of the deadlines relevant for your businesses and organizations, the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition has put together this [summary](#) of relevant USDA RFAs. We highlight a few of these opportunities below.

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Applications for the current funding period are due before Dec. 9, 2016. Two more funding periods are anticipated in late winter and early summer. EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits. These include improved water and air quality, improved irrigation efficiency, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, forest restoration and creating or enhancing wildlife habitat. Each EQIP application must include a conservation plan, co-developed by the landowner and the NRCS conservationist. For additional information, click [here](#).

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

Deadlines vary by type of project. The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) provides grants and loans to farmers and businesses for energy efficiency improvements. REAP grants can also be used to assist with the purchase of wind, solar, geothermal or other renewable energy systems, and to help farmers with energy audits and renewable energy development. For more information on REAP, see the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition's [blogpost](#) and their [Grassroots Guide to Federal Farm and Food Programs](#).

Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)

Applications are due by Jan. 19, 2017. USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has announced the availability of \$17.6 million for research and outreach activities to support the organic agriculture sector through the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI). Find more information [here](#).

Conservation Innovation Grants Program (CIG)

Proposals are due by Jan. 9, 2017. USDA is seeking proposals for cutting-edge conservation projects through its competitive Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program. USDA-NRCS will invest up to \$25 million for projects that spark the development and adoption of innovative conservation technologies and approaches in areas like conservation finance, data analytics, and precision conservation. Read more on the [CIG website](#).

Center for Irrigation Technology Conducting a

Grower Survey

The Center for Irrigation Technology at Fresno State is conducting a grower survey to determine the current level of water management technology used to assist in developing irrigation schedules. The study aims to identify technology and services that improve water and energy efficiency and to develop educational opportunities for growers. Responses will remain anonymous. The survey takes 5–10 minutes. Click [here](#) to take the survey.

Events

Agrarian Elders: Planning for Succession Workshop

Dec. 14, 1:00-4:00pm

Mendocino Farm Bureau - Ukiah, CA

Hosted by Farm Link

By the end of this workshop, farmers will understand:

- the basic components of farm succession planning and how to get started with the first conversation.
- the key financial risks in retirement planning and how the use of options like financing, leasing, or easements can help.
- the first few steps in analyzing and valuing your farm business,
- the resources and advisors available to help this process along.

For more information, contact liya@cafarmlink.org or call 831.425.0303 x7017. To register, click [here](#).

Jobs

Associate Environmental Planners (2) for the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Department of Conservation

The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program is looking for two Associate Environmental Planners. One would focus primarily on agricultural conservation easements, and the other on planning grants and Disadvantaged Community benefits aspects of the SALC program. For more information, go [here](#) and search “Associate Environmental Planner” in the Job Title/Keyword Box and choose “Department of Conservation” in the Department Dropdown Box.

Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor in Sustainable Food, Water, and Agriculture Systems (4 positions)

UC Merced

UC Merced is seeking four new faculty members (open rank) to build new interdisciplinary programs in the areas of sustainability, food, water, and agriculture. Positions are open until filled. Consideration of applications will begin on November 1, 2016. Click [here](#) for more information.

Executive Director**Cachuma Resource Conservation District**

The Cachuma RCD is a multi-county RCD with its principal work area located on the Central Coast of California. The Executive Director is the chief administrative officer responsible for managing and directing internal business operations of the District consistent with the strategic plan, goals and objectives, and policies and procedures established by the Board of Directors. Priority will be given to applications received by November 20, 2016. Position is open until filled. Click [here](#) for more information.

Senior Conservation Project Manager**Peninsular Open Space District (POST)**

This position is responsible for implementing all phases of real estate transactions to further POST's land conservation projects. This position will also serve as an internal project lead, as well as a key day-to-day liaison with external groups, in managing and supporting programmatic and strategy development, partner coordination, planning and implementation of POST's conservation protection work in this geographic area. Click [here](#) for more information.

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