

CalCAN Summit 2017

Speaker & Moderator Bios



Alan Forkey, Assistant State Conservatorist for Programs, Natural Resources Conservation Service

— Alan has worked for the NRCS in Colorado and California for more than 37 years, holding positions as a Range Management Specialist, District Conservatorist, State Wetland Biologist, and Assistant State Conservatorist

responsible for the implementation of Farm Bill Conservation Programs. He graduated from the University of Arizona with BS degrees in Fisheries Biology and Wildlife Biology, with minors in Range Management and Forestry. In addition to 26 years of field experience working with producers to implement conservation practices on private land, he has focused much of his attention over the past 20 years to the restoration, protection and enhancement of more than 100,000 acres of wetland habitat throughout California. As the Farm Bill program manager for the past 11 years, he has worked closely with partnering organizations, agencies and commodity groups to direct program funding to high priority natural resource concerns.



Ali Robinson, Loan Officer, California FarmLink — Since 2012, Ali has worked with California FarmLink, a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) with a focus in supporting sustainable agricultural production. In her current role, she conducts business development, underwrites loans, and provides business counseling to loan

clients, while contributing to program, product, capacity, strategy, and communications development. Ali has about 10 years of professional experience supporting social enterprises, natural resource conservation, and most recently, sustainable agricultural land tenure and finance. She received an MBA in Sustainable Management from Presidio Graduate School in San Francisco, previously worked for the U.S. Green Building Council - Northern California Chapter, and earned her BA at the University of Vermont.



Amélie Gaudin, Assistant Professor, UC Davis — Amélie joined the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of California Davis in 2015 as an assistant professor of Agroecology. Her current research focus on developing and testing sustainable management practices that have conservation of natural resources, agrobiodiversity and ecosystem services as a basis for yield improvement. She

investigates how cropping system management affects the crop and soil mechanisms involved in maintaining or recovering

ecosystem services along stress and fertility gradients. She is also interested in better understanding root system and rhizosphere ecology and their potential to harness improvements in soil health, sequester carbon and decrease crop water and nutrients requirements.



Andrea Davis-Cetina, Farmer/owner, Quarter Acre Farm

— Andrea is the owner and farmer of Quarter Acre Farm, a certified organic vegetable operation in Sonoma Valley. When not working in the field Andrea can be found helping to improve local food systems and access to farming knowledge. She hosts a radio show (on KSVY 91.3 FM), where each week the

show features an insightful person from the field of sustainable agriculture, seasonal eating, or social advocacy.



Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

— The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority is working to protect and steward the region's natural capital and open spaces, water resources, natural areas, and working lands to support healthy land, communities and economies. Andrea has successfully passed open space funding measures

in Sonoma and Santa Clara Counties, generating over \$600 million for land conservation. She is a past fellow of the National Conservation Leadership Institute and serves on the Advisory Council of the Bay Area Open Space Council, SPUR San Jose Policy Board, and Executive Strategic Council for Valley Transportation Authority. Andrea earned her bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Barbara and a master's degree in Urban Planning and Natural Resources from UCLA. In 2016, Andrea was named Bay Nature Magazine's Local Conservation Hero in the San Francisco Bay Region.



Beth Smoker, Food & Agriculture Policy Consultant

— Holding an M.S. in Food Systems and Society from Maryhurst University, Beth consults for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, contributing to research on their Agroecology Knowledge Hub. In 2016, she worked as CalCAN's Policy and Communications Consultant, where she helped write their progress report on

California's State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program as well as a review of the state's Net Energy Metering Aggregation program. She also serves as Vice Chair on the Sacramento Food Policy Council and President for Alchemist Community Development Corporation, a nonprofit focused on food justice.



Brent A. Holtz, Ph.D., Farm Advisor, University of California — Brent has been a Pomology Farm Advisor for the University of California for 22 years and County Director in San Joaquin County’s UC Cooperative Extension for 7 years. As a child, Brent helped his grandfather grow almonds on the family farm near Modesto. Brent attended schools in California—

Escalon High School, Modesto Junior College (A.A.), California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (B.S.)—and earned both a M.S. and Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from the University of California, Berkeley. Brent’s research and education programs are focused on growing almonds in a sustainable manner in the San Joaquin Valley of California. Brent is currently serving on San Joaquin County’s Agricultural Advisory Board, Agricultural Drought Task Force, Habitat Technical Advisory Committee San Joaquin Council of Governments, and the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors.



Charles Schembre, Vineyard Conservation Coordinator, Napa County RCD — With the RCD, Charles’ primary responsibilities include Conservation Planning, Water Management programs, management of the RCD’s Sustainable Demonstration Vineyard, review of vineyard erosion control plans, and he is currently working on developing

Carbon Farm Plans. Charles has a B.S. in Earth Science with a concentration in Soil Science from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and is a Certified Professional in Sediment and Erosion Control. Charles’ work experience also includes working as a soil and hydrology tech with the Forest Service and the Yurok Tribe, and farming diversified organic farms. He has experience farming a diversity of row crops, fruit tree varieties, and winegrapes. Charles was a vineyard manager in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties, farming up to 8 different grape varieties within multiple microclimates. His hobbies include gardening, cooking from the garden, paddle sports, exercising, camping, and traveling to California rivers and lakes with his family.



Craig McNamara, President, California State Board of Food and Agriculture — Craig is the president and owner of Sierra Orchards, a diversified farming operation producing primarily organic walnuts. By connecting people, policy and agricultural best practices, Craig works to protect the land that feeds us, to promote social justice and support the next generation

of farmers. In that capacity, he serves as the founder of the Center for Land-Based Learning, an innovative program that helps high school students build greater social and human capital in their communities. He is President of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, on the UC President’s Advisory Commission and the UC Davis Dean’s Advisory Council. He is an advisory board member of the Agricultural Sustainability Institute, and active in the American Farmland Trust, Roots of Change, and the Public Policy Institute of California.



Darrell Cordova, East Stanislaus RCD, Director & Manager of Triple C Farms, LLC — Darrell is a graduate of Fresno State University with a BS degree and credentials in Agriculture & Drafting/ Architecture, plus a MS degree from Cal Poly, SLO. He farms almonds, walnuts, corn & forage for silage in the Modesto, Turlock

area. He serves on the East Stanislaus RCD board, Blue Diamond liaison committee, Cortez Growers Association Board, and is 1st VP of Stanislaus County Farm Bureau. Darrell is a founding member of CASI (California Agriculture Systems Innovation workgroup), for conservation practices in Agriculture. Darrell and his son were recipients of the 2014 Conservation Tillage Farmer Innovator award.



David Doll, Pomology Farm Advisor, UC ANR Merced County — David is a University of California Cooperative Extension nut crop pomology farm advisor for Merced County. His primary roles are to extend research-based information relevant to nut crop production to growers in California, troubleshoot orchard production

problems, and establish research projects that address needs within the nut crop industry. He is the primary author and website manager for “The Almond Doctor” blog, which provides weekly updates for almond growers. Being raised on a small, fresh fruit farm in the mid-western part of the United States, David attended Purdue University (B.S. in plant biology), and then moved to California attend graduate school at UC Davis for a M.S. in Plant Pathology.



David Gates, Vice President, Vineyard Operations at Ridge Vineyards — David grew up on a hundred-and-sixty acre farm in central Minnesota, and decided to escape the cold winters by coming to California for school. His love of plants and agriculture led him to UC Davis, where he received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Viticulture, and met and married his wife, Donna. After

an obligatory stint in Napa Valley he made his way to Ridge in 1989. David’s duties include managing the historic Monte Bello vineyard in the Santa Cruz Mountains, the Whitton Ranch at Geyserville, and the Lytton Estate vineyards at Healdsburg, as well as monitoring and helping all Ridge growers in Sonoma, Napa, Santa Clara, and San Luis Obispo Counties.



Dave Henson, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Occidental Arts & Ecology Center — Dave Henson has been the Executive Director of OAEC since it’s founding in 1994, and is a founding member of the Sowing Circle intentional community. At OAEC, Dave’s responsibilities include strategic planning, fundraising, and

overall organizational management. Programmatically, he works within sustainable agricultural, environmental and social justice movements to further the cause of regional scale, socially just and ecologically restorative systems of governance and economy. With a background in ecology, sociology and law, Dave has co-founded or worked for many social movement organizations over the past 35 years, and has lectured and led training programs around the U.S. and in over 20 countries.



David Morell, Sonoma Ecology Center — David was EPA's first National Coordinator for NPDES municipal permits. He then organized and directed the national Office of Transportation and Land Use Policy, Air Programs. As Special Assistant to the EPA Regional Administrator he managed EPA's Integrated Environmental Management Project (IEMP) in the Silicon Valley. Later he was Toxics Coordinator

for Santa Clara County; Director of Policy for the California hazardous waste program; Vice President for Environmental Affairs for a national environmental management firm; and founder/CEO of a specialized global consulting firm. David has extensive experience with the World Bank (in Mexico, Russia and Thailand). He holds a BA in Economics from (University of Wisconsin) and Ph.D. degree in Environmental Management (Princeton University). David taught at Princeton, Stanford, UC-Berkeley, UC-Santa Cruz, UC- Davis, and other universities. He directs the Sonoma Ecology Center's biochar operations.



Dave Runsten, Policy Director, Community Alliance with Family Farmers — CAFF is a California statewide organization that works to develop sustainable agriculture and local food systems. In addition to his policy advocacy for family farmers, Dave has created and managed outreach programs at CAFF on water

use, food safety, and climate smart agriculture, and he serves on the executive committee of CalCAN. He was previously the Associate Director of the North American Integration and Development Center in the School of Public Affairs at UCLA from 1995 to 2006, where his research focused on NAFTA, rural development in Mexico, immigration, as well as economic development in Los Angeles. He studied economics at Stanford University and Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California at Berkeley.



David Smart, Professor, Department of Viticulture & Enology at UC Davis — David's research program focuses on rootstock root physiology and soil nutrient cycling. His current interests relate to the physiological process of root aging and population dynamics of roots under field conditions. His laboratory is using geochemical approaches to determine where and at what time of the season grapevine

roots are foraging. He has also been extensively involved in Global Climate Change research and looks at how elevated carbon dioxide in the atmosphere influences nitrogen and carbon cycling in the plant-soil system. He currently has a project in the Napa Valley that examines the role of vineyards play in soil carbon sequestration and carbon dioxide exchange and how this differs from oak-woodlands. David received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Botany from UC Davis.



Don Cameron, General Manager, Terranova Ranch — Don is a graduate of California State University, Fresno with a degree in Biology. Since 1981, Don has been Vice President and General Manager of Terranova Ranch Inc., located near Fresno, California, farming approximately 7,500 acres. The farm has a mix of conventional, organic and

biotech crops ranging from organic pima cotton, walnuts, seed product, and tomatoes to biotech alfalfa, corn and pima and upland cotton, along with a diversity of other annual crops. In all, 26 crops are grown on the farm. Mr. Cameron has been recognized for his work as an industry leader in technology and conservation. Mr. Cameron is a well-known authority on issues of applied biotechnology in crop production. He holds several positions in a number of industry organizations, including the California Cotton Alliance (Chairman) and California Tomato Growers Association (Director and Past Chairman). He is also the chair of the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel.



Emma Torbert, Farmer, The Cloverleaf Farm — Emma founded the Cloverleaf Farm six years ago and currently farms organic fruit (peaches, nectarines, apricots, figs, strawberries, melons, elderberries) and some vegetables (sweet corn, popcorn, sweet potatoes, peppers) on 5 acres in Davis, CA. Katie Fyhrie joined Emma as a co-partner at the Cloverleaf Farm in 2014. Emma

has farmed throughout the US and South America on a variety of organic and sustainable farms, and received her masters in Horticulture from UC Davis. Until last year, she also worked for the Agricultural Sustainability Institute as an Academic Coordinator on the long-term experiment at Russell Ranch. Now, she is a full-time farmer and is looking forward to expanding the Cloverleaf Farm, and hopefully someday starting a co-housing farm.

Eric B. Brennan, Research Horticulturist, Organic Crop Production, USDA ARS — Eric is a research horticulturist and lead scientist in organic production at the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Salinas, CA where he's worked since 2001. Current research is in organic vegetable and strawberry production focused on cover crops, weed and soil fertility management, and biological control of insect pests. This occurs on farms and at the 25 acres of certified organic, USDA-ARS land that he manages. Eric is passionate about long-term research and effective communication of practical research results to farmers and others. His research publications are available at

http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Eric_Brennan and his research-related videos are at <https://www.youtube.com/user/EricBrennanOrganic>. Prior to USDA-ARS, Eric worked as a farm advisor (Thailand), and did research on tree propagation, plant breeding, and plant-insect interactions. Education: B.S. Agronomy & Soil Science, U. of Hawaii; M.S. Horticulture, Cornell U.; Ph.D. Plant Biology, UC Davis.



Gail Wadsworth Executive Director, California Institute for Rural Studies — Gail became Executive Director of CIRS in 2009. CIRS works at the nexus of social justice, agriculture, and environmental health. CIRS conducts research on justice and sustainability issues, led by community advocates, to shape responsible

government policy. Current projects are a farmworker housing assessment, Salinas and Pajaro Valleys; best practices in farmworker housing, San Mateo County; environmental justice assessment of 5 communities, Eastern Coachella Valley. With UC Davis, Gail has been examining socio-cultural perspectives and behaviors relevant to heat-related illness among farmworkers. Gail's research focuses on labor rights, fair wages, heat illness prevention, food insecurity, farmworker housing and rural environmental justice. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and a Master of Science in International Agricultural Development.

Garrett Liles, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, CSU Chico College of Agriculture — Garrett is a Chico, CA native who earned an interdisciplinary bachelor's degree in Soil Ecology at Chico State, master's in soil and watershed sciences from University of Washington, and a Ph.D. from UC Davis studying soil organic matter and the effects of disturbance and management on the terrestrial Carbon Cycle. Garrett has a diverse professional history including mapping the soils of Lassen Park for NRCS, analysis and planning of regional biomass to energy projects, and quantifying the effects of riparian restoration, along with years of running chainsaws, building trails, and managing natural resources. Garrett is now an assistant professor of soil and plant science at Chico State in the College of Agriculture and actively involved in student-centered research focusing on soil quality, regenerative agriculture practices, and communicating science with diverse audiences.



Gary Wegner, CEO Natural Aeration Inc. — Clean By Design™ has been a passion of Gary's for over 20 years. If we allow nature's natural phototrophic biology to work for us, we can protect the environment while growing safe, healthy food. Oxygen and sunlight drive microorganisms that protect us everyday of our lives. In nature, moving

water is healthy water. When we work with nature in these aquatic systems, pathogens are consumed by the system.

Geetika Joshi, Ph.D., California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) — Geetika grew up in New Delhi, India where she received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Microbiology.



Subsequently, she joined UC Davis to pursue a doctoral degree in Soils and Biogeochemistry (Biotechnology Emphasis), where she had the opportunity to apply her knowledge of microbial processes to environmental research, such as groundwater bioremediation. Geetika then was a post-doctoral researcher at the UC Davis Center for Regional Change

and worked to identify barriers to community engagement for academic researchers and strategies to better communicate scientific data to grassroots communities. Following this experience, she joined CDFA in 2014, where she worked in the planning and development of Climate Change incentive programs.



Glenda Humiston, Ph.D., Vice President, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources — Glenda was appointed to UC ANR in 2015, bringing more than 25 years of experience working on public policy development and program implementation supporting sustainability. Glenda was born in California and raised on a cattle ranch in Colorado, where she was

a member of 4-H. She served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tunisia, as executive director of a nonprofit organization advocating for farmland preservation and value-added agriculture development, and several years as a consultant on environmental and agricultural issues throughout the West. Glenda served President Clinton as deputy undersecretary for natural resources and environment at USDA from 1998 to 2001. She managed the Sustainable Development Institute at the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development in South Africa and the 2006 World Water Forum in Mexico City. In 2009, Humiston was appointed by President Obama to serve as the California State Director at USDA Rural Development. Glenda earned her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in Environmental Science, Policy and Management with research focused on U.S. Farm Bill policy. She has a master's degree in international agricultural development from UC Davis and a bachelor's degree in animal science from Colorado State University.



Jaime Irwin, Co-owner, Kaos Sheep Outfit — Jaime studied at Oregon State University where she received a Bachelor's in Natural Resources and a Master's in Science Education. While completing her Master's, Jaime met her husband Robert Irwin, a multi-

generational sheepman. With her knowledge of healthy land management and his expertise of animal husbandry, they combined forces to establish their Kaos Sheep Outfit in 2011. Their operation has grown from a few hundred head of sheep to several thousand. Jaime and Robert have dedicated themselves

to the principle that with healthy animals comes healthy land. In 2015, Jaime applied and received a Western SARE Farmer/Rancher Project. The project investigated the environmental impacts of target sheep grazing as a sustainable agricultural practice in vineyard management.



Jake Schmitz, West Region Dairy Pool Manager, Organic Valley — Jake has a B.S. of Geology and Climatology and has worked in organic agriculture for fifteen years focusing mostly on dairy. Jake has worked with hundreds of farmers in over a dozen states within the Southeast, Midwest and the West Coast. He focuses on biological agronomy, animal husbandry and grazing management.



Janaki Jagannath, Coordinator, Community Alliance for Agroecology — Janaki coordinates the Community Alliance for Agroecology, a coalition of rural organizations working to advance agricultural and environmental policy towards justice for communities bearing the burden of California's food system. Most recently Janaki worked at California Rural Legal Assistance,

Inc. in Fresno, enforcing labor standards and environmental justice protections such as access to clean drinking water for farmworker communities in California's agricultural heartland. She has farmed in diversified and orchard crops across the state, including conducting training at the Refugee Entrepreneurial Agriculture Project in San Diego County with refugee women farmers. She is an artist, musician, and novice plant breeder. Janaki holds a B.S. in Agricultural Development from UC Davis and a producers' certification in Ecological Horticulture from UC Santa Cruz Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems.



Jane Sooby, Outreach & Policy Specialist, CCOF — Jane Sooby is an expert in organic and sustainable agriculture research, education, and extension. She is a freelance consultant and writer in organic and sustainable science and seeks to work with farmers, scientists, and others to further organic agriculture. Jane's academic background is in agronomy and biology.



Javier Zamora, Owner/farmer, JSM Organics — Javier is the owner of JSM Organics, cultivating over 50 acres of strawberries and unique varieties of vegetables and flowers in Royal Oaks and Aromas, California. Javier is a driven and passionate farmer, who helps other farmers and educates the community about organic farming practices. Javier was born in

Michoacán, Mexico. From age 7, Javier helped tend the family's vegetable plot and worked in his school's 5-acre garden. Javier

came to the U.S. at age 20 and began farming 2 acres while continuing his education.



Jeanne Merrill, Policy Director, CalCAN — Jeanne directs and coordinates CalCAN's climate and agriculture strategies and campaigns in collaboration with hundreds of partners. She has 19 years experience in agricultural, environmental and energy policy advocacy at the state and

national levels. Prior to CalCAN, Jeanne served as Associate Policy Director with the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute in Wisconsin, where she was a registered lobbyist, and worked on the conservation and rural development titles of the 2008 Farm Bill. Jeanne has served as a board member of the Midwest Organic Services Association (MOSA), an organic certification organization, and as co-chair of the coordinating council of the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. She is currently active in the leadership of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, elected to the Organizing Committee and a member of the Conservation, Environment and Energy Committee.



Jeff Borum, Project Coordinator, East Stanislaus RCD — Over the past year, Jeff has focused on building a strong foundation for a statewide grower-led network while simultaneously managing other projects, such as a collection of 17 ongoing compost field trials around the state. Previously, he worked for San Joaquin RCD as Biological Technician for the NRCS Plant Materials Center in Lockeford, where he oversaw soil

health studies and cover crop demos as well as designed and implemented restoration plans for the 106-acre facility. Jeff was born in Ventura County but raised in Memphis, TN. Jeff obtained a B.S. in Environmental Science with a minor in Physics from Humboldt State in 2013.



Jeff Creque, Director of Rangeland and Agroecosystem Management, Carbon Cycle Institute — Jeffrey is a co-founder of the Marin Carbon Project (www.marincarbonproject.org) and Director of Rangeland and Agroecosystem Management at the Carbon Cycle Institute (www.carboncycle.org), where

he focuses on strategies to increase soil carbon for multiple ecosystem benefits. Jeff has over 35 years of experience in bio-intensive agriculture, rangeland management, soil carbon enhancement and watershed restoration. He holds a Ph.D. in Rangeland Ecology and is a California State Board of Forestry Certified Rangeland Manager. Jeff is currently engaged in training Ranchers, Farmers and Resource Conservation District personnel across California in strategies for increasing carbon capture and sequestration on working lands within a whole-farm planning and implementation framework known as Carbon Farm Planning.



Jenna Lang, Microbiome Scientist, Trace Genomics – Jenna has over 15 years of experience in microbial genomics, including 10 years at the DOE Joint Genome Institute in Walnut Creek, CA, where she developed microbial genome sequencing protocols, and participated in the analysis of some of the first metagenome sequencing

projects. She acquired her Ph.D. in microbial ecology in the laboratory of Jonathan Eisen at UC Davis. As a postdoc, also in the Eisen lab, she managed an international seagrass microbiome project, and served as a consultant for a variety of microbiome studies. She is currently the Microbiome Scientist at Trace Genomics, a San Francisco startup that is applying machine learning to the analysis of soil microbiome data with the goal of helping growers understand the relationship between biological soil health parameters and agricultural crop performance.



Julie Alvis, Deputy Assistant Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency

– The California Natural Resources Agency is the state agency responsible for managing California’s natural, cultural, and historical resources. Julie is responsible for the fiscal oversight of over \$21 billion in funding that is administered by 22 departments and conservancies for a wide variety

of resources-related programs. Julie serves as key staff to the California Strategic Growth Council, and led the development of the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program, which seeks to avoid increases in greenhouse gas emissions by protecting California’s farms and ranchlands from conversion to urban uses. She serves on behalf of the Secretary for Resources on the Baldwin Hills Conservancy and other committees, and was recently appointed to the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel. She received a BA from UC Davis, and is a long-time resident of Placer County.



Jim Durst, Organic Grower, Durst Organics

– Jim farms about 800 acres in the area of western Yolo county known as Hungry Hollow. Crops include fresh market asparagus, tomatoes, snap peas, melons and watermelons, winter squash, alfalfa, and grains. All acres are certified organic.



Jo Ann Baumgartner, Executive Director, Wild Farm Alliance

– Jo Ann works in the intersection between agriculture and wild nature. She is the lead author of Biodiversity Conservation: An Organic Farmer’s and Certifier’s Guide and How to Conserve Biodiversity on the Farm: Actions to Take on a Continuum from

Simple to Complex. Before joining WFA in 2001, she worked for other sustainable agricultural nonprofits and was an organic farmer for over a decade.



Kandi Manhart, Executive Officer, Glenn County Resource Conservation District

– Kandi graduated California State University, Chico with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Business, emphasis in Marketing. She has worked with the Glenn County RCD since 2005. She enjoys working with people to help address resource issues and pursuing

opportunities that benefit agriculture, natural resources and local communities. She truly believes there is a balance needed amongst all resources, people and landscapes, to ensure a healthy ecosystem for future generations. Partnerships are the key to success! Professionally, Kandi is an Alumni of California Agricultural Leadership Program, NorCal Water Leaders Program by NCWA, UCCE Water Quality Course, CARCD Leadership Academy, The Aldo Leopold Land Ethic Leaders Program, California Special Districts Association General Manager Training, and Holistic Financial and Succession Planning.



Josette Lewis, Ph.D., World Food Center, UC Davis – Josette was brought on at UC Davis in 2013 to launch the World Food Center. Prior to that, she worked in international business development with Arcadia Biosciences. Before Arcadia, Josette spent 16 years at the US Agency for International Development, in a

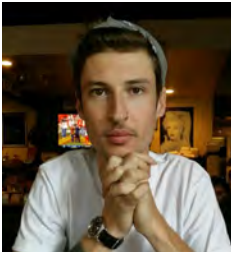
variety of areas of agricultural research and development. As Director of the Office of Agriculture at USAID, she worked with senior levels of the Administration to launch Feed the Future. Josette serves on the US Secretary of Agriculture’s advisory committee on Agricultural Biotechnology in the 21st Century, the Foundation for Agricultural Research Food Systems Innovation Advisory Committee, is a member of the board of directors for the International Life Sciences Institute Research Foundation and is a member of the James Beard Foundation Impact Program Advisory Committee.



Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture

– Karen was appointed Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture on January 12, 2011, by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. Secretary Ross has deep leadership experience in agricultural issues nationally, internationally, and here in California. Prior to joining

CDFA, Secretary Ross was chief of staff for U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, a position she accepted in 2009. Prior to that appointment, she served as President of the California Association of Winegrape Growers from 1996- 2009, and as Vice-President of the Agricultural Council of California from 1989-1996. Before moving to California, Secretary Ross served as Director of Government Relations for the Nebraska Rural Electric Association and as Field Representative for U.S. Senator Edward Zorinsky.



Kelsey Brewer, Associate Research Specialist, Department of Plant Sciences, UC Davis — Kelsey graduated from UC Davis with a Bachelor of Science in Plant Science and a minor in Soil Science. He spent several years as the Field Manager for Feeding Crane Farms, a biodiverse organic vegetable farm, as well as Farm Manager at

FARM Davis, a small-scale non-profit farm, both based near Sacramento. He has five years of research experience, covering diverse topics in the field of Agroecology, including soil microbial diversity, soil structure, and nutrient dynamics. His current research, with the Gaudin Lab at UC Davis, focuses on the ecosystem service benefits of carbon farming and the degree to which those benefits can be enhanced through livestock integration into annual and perennial cropping systems.



Kevin Flanagan, Principal, ThinkWire Energy Services — Kevin is co-founder and principal of ThinkWire Energy Services, a Fresno-based independent energy consulting firm whose sole mission is to help clients evaluate energy opportunities, avoid project pitfalls, and reduce energy costs. ThinkWire Energy has been involved in over 50 MW of renewable energy projects in California.

Kevin is a board member of the San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Cluster and a graduate of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.



Kevin Alexander Watt, Integrated Land & Livestock Manager, TomKat Ranch Educational Foundation — Kevin works for the TomKat Ranch Educational Foundation in Pescadero, California where he coordinates the foundation's work to quantify and share the effects of Regenerative Livestock Grazing practices. Kevin is also the owner of Early Bird Ranch, a dynamic and

sustainable farm in Pescadero that produces chicken, eggs, pork, rabbit, and duck and serves on the Board of Directors for the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District.



Kripa Jagannathan, Ph.D. Candidate, UC Berkeley — Kripa is a Ph.D. candidate at the Energy and Resources Group of UC Berkeley. Her research focuses on how to make climate information more usable for adaptation decision-making. Kripa has been working with UC Cooperative Extension and the USDA Climate Hub, to understand perennial crop growers' needs and preferences

for climate information through interviews with growers and farm advisors in CA. She also works with Lawrence Berkeley National Lab's climate sciences division to assess climate models' skill in predicting locally relevant climatic metrics such as chill hours. From 2007-2012, Kripa was a part of the Climate Change Advisory team of PricewaterhouseCoopers where she provided

technical assistance to State and Federal ministries, as well as private companies.



Lani Estill, Co-owner and CFO, Estill Ranches, LLC — Lani is the CFO of a diversified livestock operation in Lassen and Modoc Counties, CA and also Washoe County, Nevada. The Estill Family raises alfalfa, beef cattle, lamb and wool. Lani recently started a small yarn company called Lani's Lana Fine Rambouillet Wool featuring Climate Beneficial Wool. She

received her BS degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Nevada Reno in 1987 and passed the CPA Exam in 1988. She has been learning about agriculture and accounting every since.



Louise Jackson, Emerita Professor and Cooperative Extension Specialist, Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources, UC Davis — Louise is an ecologist whose expertise is in plant-soil-ecosystem functions. She has a strong interest the role of biodiversity in agricultural systems and working landscapes. Her research spans gene to

landscape levels and includes work on plant nutrition and water balance, soil microbial carbon and nitrogen cycling, mycorrhizae, soil food webs, and analysis of biodiversity and ecosystem functions across landscapes. Her lab group has conducted research in organic production systems, mainly for vegetables, since 1990. She has been involved in several projects dealing with climate change issues for California agriculture, related to GHG emissions reduction and adaptation to global warming.



Marisa Alcorta, California Farm Academy Apprentice Program Manager, Center for Land Based Learning —

Marisa has been training beginning farmers for the last 8 years, and has worked in sustainable agriculture for the last 16 years. She is currently developing the first registered apprenticeship program in farming in California, and mentors new farmers in a farm business

incubator. Marisa has been an agricultural researcher, a farm educator, and a farmer herself. She got degrees from Cornell and UC Davis in agriculture, and lives with her fiancé and pup at Terra Firma Farm in Winters.

Max Stevenson, Ph.D., Assistant General Manager, Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District —

Max is the Assistant General Manager at a 200,000 acre irrigation district. With a Ph.D. in Plant Physiology from UC Davis, Max switched to the field of water and hydrology in 2002. Max also manages a regional groundwater monitoring program for the Yolo Water Resources Association. Max has recently coordinated and lead the development of groundwater simulation models, nitrate fingerprinting and groundwater age studies, regional recharge and infiltration investigations, and provided technical assistance with GAMA, ILRP, SGMA, IRWM, GWMP, AWMP, CCRMP, TMDLs and other acronyms.



Mike Weber, Co-Owner, Weber Family Farms — For over 100 years, Mike’s family has produced fresh eggs for Northern California families. As fourth generation poultry farmers, they have taken measures to dramatically reduce the GHG emissions from their operation, to protect their water supply from contamination and overuse, and to enriching the fertility of soils by converting their waste stream into a rich,

high nutrient organic fertilizer used by organic farms across Northern California. They seek to continually improve their impact on the air, water and soil around us.



Neil Edgar, Executive Director, California Compost Coalition — Since 2001, Neil has been a Senior Project Manager with Edgar & Associates, a governmental affairs and environmental engineering firm specializing in solid waste management, recycling, composting, renewable energy, and climate change issues. He has consulted on over two dozen organic waste management

projects for client companies including technical feasibility, collection options, land use compatibility, site design, operations, grant and loan funding, financial modeling, regulatory compliance, and market development. Neil was co-founder of the California Compost Coalition, a statewide lobbying coalition that focuses on legislative and regulatory development for composting and other organics management. He is a member of the United States Composting Council’s Legislative and Environmental Affairs Committee and serves as a policy liaison for the California Organics Recycling Council.



Paul Muller, Partner, Full Belly Farm — Paul and his spouse Dru Rivers have farmed organically with their four children in the Capay Valley for the past 32 years. They are joined on the farm by four other partners and some 60 full time employees. They have worked to evolve a farm system that would serve as a healthy alternative to the current

farm models. Full Belly Farm is a 450-acre diversified organic farm focused on local/regional marketing; diverse cropping patterns; ecological health and diversity; soil building; carbon sequestration through cover crop management; innovative market strategies; growing new farmers through internships and new farm enterprises; and fostering vibrancy and beauty. They have helped to organize and moderate the Agriculture Roundtable series in the Capay Valley to develop a regional agricultural strategic plan, and have participated in the work of California Ag Vision, CalCAN, Ecological Farming Association and the Yolo Land Trust.



Phoebe Seaton, Co-Director and Attorney at Law, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability — Phoebe co-founded and co-directs Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability. Leadership Counsel represents lower income communities in the San Joaquin Valley and Coachella Valley on matters related to land use, natural resources,

transportation and investment through local and statewide policy advocacy, legal representation, and community organizing and education. Prior to launching Leadership Counsel, Phoebe directed the Community Equity Initiative at California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. and was the Policy Coordinator for issues related to water and land use at California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation. She received her JD from UCLA and her BA in History from UC Berkeley.



Rebecca Burgess, Executive Director, Fibershed — Rebecca has over a decade of experience writing and implementing hands-on curriculum that focuses on the intersection of restoration ecology and fiber systems. She has taught at Westminster College, Harvard University, and has created workshops for a range of NGOs and corporations. She is the author of the best-selling book *Harvesting Color*, a bioregional

look into the natural dye traditions of North America. She has built an extensive network of farmers and artisans within our region’s Northern California Fibershed to pilot the regenerative fiber systems model at the community scale.



Rosie Burroughs, Owner, Burroughs Family Farms — With their children, Rosie and Ward Burroughs operate a diverse operation east of Modesto that produces organic and pasture-raised dairy and beef, organic almonds, cheese, eggs and more.



Ruth Dahlquist-Willard, Ph.D., Small Farms and Specialty Crops Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Fresno and Tulare Counties — Ruth holds a Ph.D. in entomology from the University of Idaho and the Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación Enseñanza (CATIE). Her research and extension programs address issues faced by

socially disadvantaged farmers in Fresno and Tulare Counties. Ruth has coordinated extension efforts to assist these growers in applying for water and energy savings programs such as the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET). Other extension efforts focus on assisting small-scale farmers with regulatory compliance and improving production of specialty crops such as Asian specialty vegetables and herbs, jujubes, moringa, and blueberries. Her research interests include integrated pest management for small-scale diversified farms, drought-tolerant crops, and processing of value-added products.



Sallie Calhoun, Owner, Paicines Ranch — Sallie and her husband, Matt Christiano, purchased the Paicines Ranch in central California in 2001. Part of an original land grant, the Paicines Ranch has been a working ranch since the mid-1800's. Sallie has operated the ranch implementing holistic management to improve the

health of the grasslands, producing grass fed beef, and creating an event center. Previously, Sallie and her husband ran a software company, which they sold in 2000 and since then, she has been involved in the fields of regenerative agriculture, local economies, and philanthropy. She is passionate about California native grasses and shifting culture toward local food systems. Born and raised in Knoxville, Tenn., Sallie received her BSEE degree from Rice University.



Sanjai J. Parikh, Associate Professor of Soil Chemistry, Department of Land, Air and Water Resources and Chair of the Soils and Biogeochemistry Graduate Group, UC Davis — Sanjai's research program addresses biogeochemical processes at solid-liquid interfaces in soil and water environments, with particular emphasis on the environmental and agricultural impacts of recycling

waste materials in soil such as animal manures, biosolids, biochar, and food processing waste waters. While much of his research addresses contaminant transport (pharmaceuticals, hydrocarbons, heavy metals, nanoparticles) and soil remediation, he also examines nutrient-mineral and enzyme-mineral interactions in soils. Sanjai is also the co-creator of the UC Davis Biochar Database (<http://biochar.ucdavis.edu/>).



Sarah Aird, Co-Director, Californians for Pesticide Reform — Sarah joined the Californians for Pesticide Reform (CPR) coalition in 2010, becoming Co-Director in 2011. A diverse coalition of over 190 member organizations across California, CPR's mission is to protect public health, improve environmental quality and support

a sustainable and just agricultural system by building a diverse movement across California to change statewide and local pesticide policies and practices. Sarah has worked on a variety of pesticide-related issues, including: reducing pesticide use on school grounds and in multi-unit housing; establishing the KEEN and FERN community-based reporting mechanisms in the San Joaquin Valley; reducing agricultural pesticide use near schools; and seeking greater state investment in agroecological and other carbon farming practices. Sarah is a lawyer, with a background in international human rights.



Scott Park, Owner, Park Farming Organics — Park Farming Organics is a family owned farming operation in Meridian, CA. (50 miles north of Davis). Scott farms with his son, Brian, and wife, Ulla. Park Farming has been in existence for 43 years with the

past 31 years transitioning fields to an organic, sustainable farm system. They farm 1630 acres of certified organic land on 26 different fields spread over 10 miles near the Sacramento River. Ten to thirty different crops are grown every year to provide biodiversity to the soil and the surrounding environment.



Scott Weeks, Environmental Scientist, California Department of Food and Agriculture — Scott works in the Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation on the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET) in CDFA, a program that works on reducing Green House Gas production and increase water use efficiency on agricultural lands.

Stacey Sullivan, Policy Director, Sustainable Conservation — Stacey has been Sustainable Conservation's Policy Director since 2009, during which time he has led successful legislative campaigns to enact state statutes to improve water quality and expedite riparian habitat restoration, and guided the organization's policy initiatives in water supply and management, greenhouse gas reduction, and air and water quality. Prior to joining Sustainable Conservation, Stacey spent 12 years as a committee consultant to the California State Assembly, including eight years as Chief Consultant to the Local Government Committee. His work while there included in-depth involvement in significant legislation and policy initiatives concerning the California Environmental Quality Act, water policy, sustainable agriculture, housing, and land use planning. Stacey was educated at UC Santa Cruz (Religious Studies), the University of Oxford (Medieval History), and King Hall School of Law at UC Davis, from which he received his JD in 1995.

Steve Gruenwald, PCA/CCA, Growers' Choice Crop Consulting and Bosque Verde LLC — Steve operates Bosque Verde, farming almonds, walnuts, prunes, and Country Pumpkins. Steve is also a PCA and CCA in Northern California, owns Growers' Choice Crop Consulting, providing independent pest control and certified crop advisor's services in Glenn, Tehama, and Butte counties. He works with clients to develop IPM based agronomy, fertility, and irrigation plans for their crops. Steve also farms almonds, walnuts, and prunes in the area.



Steve Wheeler, Ph.D., Professor, UC Davis — Stephen teaches in the Department of Human Ecology at UC Davis, and has previously taught at the University of New Mexico and UC Berkeley. Wheeler has written widely on urban sustainability topics and is the author of *Planning for Sustainability: Creating Livable, Equitable, and Ecological Communities* (Second Edition

2013), *Climate Change and Social Ecology* (2012), and *The Sustainable Urban Development Reader* (with Timothy Beatley; Third Edition 2014). His research focuses on urban sustainability, climate change planning, and urban morphology. His awards include the Academic Leadership Award from the California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN) and the William R. and June Dale Prize for Excellence in Urban and Regional

Planning. He is currently working on a book entitled *Built Landscapes: Patterns of Form in the World's Urban Regions and their Implications for Sustainability*.



Steve Zicari, Ph.D., PE - Biological and Agricultural Engineering, UC Davis

— Steve obtained his Ph.D. from UC Davis in Biosystems Engineering and is currently a post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering. Steve has over 15-years' experience researching and implementing alternative manure

management systems, including several mid- to large-scale anaerobic digestion and biogas utilization projects on dairies. Steve recently worked on a team which evaluated several dairy manure management practices for greenhouse gas emissions mitigation potentials in California. His current and future research efforts aim to employ bioprocess engineering practices for converting wastes into value-added resources while reducing negative environmental impacts. Steve obtained his BS and MS degrees in Agricultural and Bioenvironmental Engineering at Cornell University and is a licensed Professional Agricultural Engineer in California.



Tapan Pathak, Cooperative Extension Specialist, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources

— Tapan is a Cooperative Extension specialist in climate adaptation in agriculture. His background and expertise is in applied climate science in agriculture, crop modeling applications, and agricultural adaptation studies. He has a statewide appointment and actively engaged

in various state and multistate research and Extension efforts addressing climate resilience in agriculture. Prior to joining the UCANR in 2015, he served as an Extension faculty at the University of Nebraska with focus on climate applications in agriculture. He received his Ph.D. from University of Florida in agricultural engineering, M.S. degree from Utah State University in Irrigation Engineering, and B.S. from Gujarat Agricultural University in India.



Tom Tomich, Ph.D., Director, Agricultural Sustainability Institute, UC Davis

Professor — Tom is founding director of the UCD Agricultural Sustainability Institute and inaugural holder of the WK Kellogg Endowed Chair in Sustainable Food Systems. He teaches in the Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems major. He directs the UC statewide

Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program. His research spans agriculture/farming systems, economic development, food policy, & natural resource management. His latest co-authored book, *The California Nitrogen Assessment: Challenges and Solutions for People, Agriculture, and the Environment*, was recently published. He is on a number of committees/boards, including the Independent Science and Partnership Council/Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the Annual Review of Environment and

Resources (ARER), and the International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability. He has served as ARER co-editor since Jan 2015. He received his BS in economics at UCD and his Ph.D. in agricultural economics at Stanford.



Tom Willey, T&D Willey Farms — Tom and wife Denesse operated T&D Willey Farms for 35 years, a 75-acre Certified Organic farm in Madera, California growing an array of Mediterranean vegetables the year round. Willey Farms produce was appreciated in specialty markets and fine restaurants up and down the U.S. West Coast as well as on

the tables of over 800 weekly Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) subscription members in their own community. Tom was, until recently, a Slow Food USA governor and advocates for local food prominence through writing, speaking, radio and event organizing activities. His "Down on the Farm" radio program features the work of progressive farmers and others in the San Joaquin Valley's agriculture and food communities. Tom served over the years on boards of directors of the Ecological Farming Association and CCOF. He currently serves as a Policy Advisor to The Cornucopia Institute which monitors U.S. organic industry integrity.



Valerie Minton, Program Director, Sonoma Resource Conservation District — As Program Director at the Sonoma Resource Conservation District, Valerie manages a team delivering the LandSmart© program, promoting productive lands and thriving streams through on-farm conservation planning and implementation. Of late, she

has been working with regional partners to develop a Carbon Farming element for the program, helping farmers reduce GHG emissions and adapt to a changing climate. Valerie also serves on the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. A life-long resident of Sonoma County, she grew up in an apple orchard in Sebastopol, earned her bachelor's of science in Biology at Sonoma State University, and now lives in Petaluma.



Virginia Jameson, Deputy Director for California, American Farmland Trust

— Virginia is California's Deputy State Director for American Farmland Trust in Sacramento, where she advocates for policies to protect California's farmland. She has a dual master's degree in International Affairs/ Natural Resources and Sustainable

Development from American University in Washington D.C. and the United Nations mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica. She holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Previously, she served as a Management Specialist for the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's office, as well as a board aide for Monterey County Supervisor Jane Parker, and as associate director for the Ag Land Trust, where she oversaw the permanent conservation of 3,000 acres of agricultural land. Virginia continues to serve on the Ag Land Trust board of directors.

