



## News from the California Climate & Agriculture Network

April 18, 2017

### Methane Emissions Reductions Using Manure Management

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's new Alternative Manure Management Practices (AMMP) Program is getting underway with an allocation of grant funds in the range of \$9 to 16 million expected this summer. The program is funded with cap-and-trade revenue and is intended to reduce methane emissions on livestock operations.

CalCAN along with other allies have been advocating for funds to incentivize strategies that may include dry management and flush systems that result in composting of manure solids, compost pack barns and transitioning either part or all of a herd to a pasture-based system. A comment letter we recently submitted can be found [here](#). We also produced a series of [profiles of dairy farms](#) using alternative manure management practices.

Currently, CDFA is in the process of developing the framework for AMMP and determining the practices that will fall under the program. In doing so, CDFA is holding several meetings to gather stakeholder feedback in communities across the state. The times and locations of these meetings are:

**Friday, April 21, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
Sonoma County Department of Agriculture  
133 Aviation Blvd., Suite 110, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**Monday, April 24, 2017 – 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**  
Energy Education Center

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**Friday, April 28, 2017 – 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

Webinar – Registration information for the webinar will be posted on the AMMP webpage: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/AMMP/>.

Additional information about AMMP can be found on the [CDFA website](#). We encourage all who have an interest in this program’s development to attend a meeting or join the webinar.

If you have additional questions about the workshops, they can be directed to Geetika Joshi, Senior Environmental Scientist at CDFa, at [geetika.joshi@cdfa.com](mailto:geetika.joshi@cdfa.com) or (916) 900-5150.



### Healthy Soils Initiative Update

The Healthy Soils program is expected to launch in June with the release of a call for proposals to incentivize numerous practices that improve soil health while decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and/or increasing carbon storage on farms. Though the details of the program are still under development by CDFa, eligible practices will likely include mulch and compost applications, reduced tillage, cover crops and conservation plantings. More details on the program design can be found in a [recent CalCAN blog](#).

One-time funding will be available this year to support technical assistance for a number of climate change programs, including the Healthy Soils Initiative, SWEEP and AMMP. Entities interested in applying for technical assistance grants are encouraged to register online by following these directions:

*Register at: <https://caleprocure.ca.gov/pages/Events-BS3/event-search.aspx>. Search for “California Climate Investments Outreach & Technical Assistance Program” under the “Event” category. To ensure receipt of any addenda to this RFI that may be issued, interested parties are encouraged to register online at: <https://caleprocure.ca.gov/pages/> and subscribe to the SGC listserve at <http://tinyurl.com/nyuc67w>.*

The next meeting of the advisory committee guiding the design of the Healthy Soils Initiative will take place on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Lawrence Berkeley National Labs (time and location to be announced). Check the website for more details if you would like to attend: [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/efasap/meetings\\_presentations.html](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/efasap/meetings_presentations.html).

CalCAN is offering the following series of webinars in May and June to help prepare farmers and technical assistance providers to apply for Healthy Soils funding.

April 20, 12:00-1:00pm PST (in partnership with CCOF)

Register here: <https://www.ccof.org/california%E2%80%99s-new-healthy-soils-program-webinar>



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...](#)

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May 22, 10:00 – 11:00am (in partnership with CalPoly’s Center for Sustainability)

Register here:

<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/f7da2100f641f8c8cde7dc3c8da9331e>

May 26, 10:00 – 11:00am (in partnership with Chico State’s Regenerative Agriculture Institute)

Register here:

<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/362693a281723b867510d14dfea9e911>

May 30, 10:00 – 11:00am (in partnership with UC Davis Agriculture Sustainability Institute)

Register here:

<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/0f72f8e741098877cde7dc3c8da9331e>

## **Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program Update**

The Strategic Growth Council (SGC) voted on April 11th to unanimously to approve the 2017 program guidelines for the [Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program](#) (SALC), thereby ensuring that ten percent of the SGC’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) budget will again go to the SALC program. The actual funding level for SALC will not be determined until after the fourth cap-and-trade auction in May; though it is estimated to be at least \$7.5 million based on the first three auctions this fiscal year.

With approval by the SGC of the 2017 guidelines, the Department of Conservation will soon release a request for grant applications. DOC’s anticipated timeline for the program (subject to change) is below. CalCAN will share updates on our blog as they occur.

### Timeline:

April 2017 – Release Solicitation for Projects

June 1, 2017 – Pre-Proposal Concepts Due (Optional for Applicants)

June/July 2017 – Statewide Technical Workshops

August 1, 2017 – Full Proposal Deadline

December 2017 – Recommendations for Award

[Read more...](#)



## **California Climate & Agriculture Bills to Watch in 2017**

Every legislative session, CalCAN reviews dozens of bills proposed by California

legislators for their potential impact on farmers, their communities, and the climate. Below is an initial list of bills we have taken a position on (we are still tracking and analyzing more!).

But first, an important note: the big story of this legislative session is likely to be about what the legislature does about the future of California's landmark cap-and-trade system, which is set to expire in 2020 and provides the funding for [climate smart agriculture programs](#). CalCAN will continue to track this issue closely.

[Read more...](#)

## Grazing and Walking on Healthy Soils

Guest blog by Anthony Chang, Kitchen Table Advisors

On February 28, 2017, 300+ people gathered at UC Davis for the annual CalCAN (California Climate and Agriculture Network) [conference](#). Farmers and ranchers, government and nonprofit agencies, policy advocates and funders gathered to learn, share best practices, and problem solve around agriculture and climate change.



I had never been to the CalCAN Summit before, but came away blown away by the quality of people and conversation, and the deep intersection of our work supporting the economic viability of sustainable small farms and ranches and the work of CalCAN's coalition and policy work supporting ecological land stewardship and climate resilience on farms. Several of the farms we support at Kitchen Table Advisors had a presence at the conference: Javier Zamora of [JSM Organics](#) was on a farmer panel in the opening plenary; Emma Torbert of [Cloverleaf Farm](#) participated in a workshop; and Alexis and Gilles Robertson of [Skyelark Ranch](#) hosted a farm tour.

It was great to be in dialogue with seasoned farmers like Judith Redmond of Full Belly Farm and Albert Straus of Straus Family Creamery; nonprofit partners like [POST](#), [California FarmLink](#), [Point Blue](#), and the [Carbon Cycle Institute](#); thoughtful policy advocates like Renata Brillinger at CalCAN and Dave Runston at [CAFF](#); and key supporters like Sallie Calhoun of Paicines Ranch; Michael Roberts and Joanna Lehrman at 11th Hour Project; Susan Clark at Gaia Fund; and Nancy Schaub of New Priorities Foundation.

The day after the CalCAN Summit, 70+ people spent the day visiting three farms in the Capay Valley to walk the land, touch and feel the soil, and hear from farmers on the ground about healthy soils, agriculture and climate change, and how they understand the connection between operating an economically successful farm while stewarding their land.

[Read more...](#)



### **Partner Profile: Valley Land Alliance**

With California farmland disappearing at an astonishing rate (an average of 50,000 acres of farmland each year), organizations working to preserve this valuable resource, such as the [Valley Land Alliance](#), are crucial for the future of agriculture. The Valley Land Alliance, a nonprofit focused specifically on Merced County farmland preservation, has a mission “to educate and build alliances to protect our uniquely productive California Central Valley farmland.”

Coupling education and alliance building since their inception in 2006, they have been able to work together with the multitude of stakeholders involved in land use decisions to protect their valley’s farmland. From the onset, they have built relationships with “farmers, ranchers, geologists, political scientists, and citizen groups”. Their alliances extend beyond individuals to a variety of organizations they have found commonalities with, such as the [American Farmland Trust](#), [Merced County Farm Bureau](#), and [California Alliance with Family Farms](#), to name a few.

[Read more...](#)

### **Call for Abstracts: Organic Agriculture Soil Health Symposium**

**Crop, Soil, Agronomy Societies Meeting, Special Session  
October, 2017 in Tampa, Florida**

Submissions are invited to the Organic Agriculture Soil Health Symposium (OASHS) for proposed research, education, and extension papers and posters. The Symposium will take place during the Annual Tri-Societies Conference. The intent of the symposium is to provide current information to researchers, extension, farmers, ranchers, educators, agricultural professionals and others interested in organic agriculture, held in conjunction with a meeting that is regularly attended by organic producers and processors.

The focus and priority for this symposium will be Soil Health and Soil Management. Applicants are asked to submit an abstract not to exceed 500 words that includes names of the co-authors, contact information, a working title, the topic area, an introduction that explains the context and purpose of the research, extension or education activity, the methods used, and a brief summary of the results and conclusions. Cross-disciplinary papers are encouraged.

[Click here](#) for more information.

## Events

### **Targeted/Prescribed (Rotational / Deferral) Livestock Grazing For Meeting Conservation Goals**

**April 20, 2017 9:00am - 4:30pm**

**Cal Poly Beef Center**

This is the twice-a-year meeting of the Central Coast Rangeland Coalition. The goal of this meeting is to raise awareness of how planned, targeted, rotational/deferral grazing practices (particular strategies and methods) can be used to meet specific conservation objectives. [Click here](#) to register.

### **Sequestering Carbon Emissions in Soil: What is the Technical Potential?**

**Apr 24, 2017 • 11:30am EDT**

The world must pursue “net negative emissions” strategies to have a reasonable chance of avoiding catastrophic climate change. All scenarios for keeping global temperature change below 1.5°C or 2°C involve carbon sequestration. Agricultural soils, grasslands, and wetlands are important potential sinks for carbon if properly managed. Sequestration can also improve resilience and provide many other ecosystem services. This webinar will explore the state of our scientific understanding about the technical potential of soil carbon sequestration globally. What is the science telling us about soil's ability to pull carbon pollution out of the atmosphere? What estimates should we use to assess the potential of soil carbon sequestration? [Click here](#) to register.

### **Napa County Watershed Symposium**

**Nature's Value - What is, what was, and what can be**

**May 24, 2017 • 8:00am – 3:00pm**

**Blue Note Napa/Napa Valley Opera House, 1030 Main Street, Napa**

This event will look into hot topics in our watersheds, including hydrology, fish, water quality, groundwater, climate change, and a means to value and monitor our natural resources. CalCAN's Renata Brillinger will be speaking about climate and agriculture policies. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

### **Ecology of Soil Health Summit**

**Colorado State University**

**Fort Collins, Colorado, USA**

**June 5-7, 2017**

The importance of healthy soils for sustainable agriculture and land management has been widely recognized in recent years, resulting in the emergence of ambitious initiatives to promote and incentivize practices that improve and regenerate soils. The soil ecology community has a unique systems perspective that can inform and improve understanding of soil health and efforts to transform science into practices and technologies that enhance sustainable land management. The goal of this international summit is to advance the development and implementation of science-based programs that enhance soil health. This meeting will bring together scientists, students, program managers, land managers, and industry representatives. Register by May 12: <http://soilhealthsummit.colostate.edu/>

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**Our mailing address is:**

PO Box 1366

Sebastopol, CA 95473

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