Welcome to the fourth California Climate and Agriculture Summit, hosted by the California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN). CalCAN is a coalition of organic and sustainable agriculture organizations and farmer allies. We came together out of concern for climate change impacts on California agriculture and to advance sustainable agricultural solutions to a changing climate. Since 2009, we have cultivated farmer leadership to face the challenges of climate change and to serve as the sustainable agriculture voice on climate change policy in California.

The Summit sessions take place in two buildings: the Conference Center and the Alumni Center. The morning plenary sessions are located in the Conference Center Ballroom, down the hall from the registration desk. The Alumni Center is on the quad just northwest of the Conference Center.

Breakout workshop sessions are held in both buildings. Please refer to the program for room locations.

We encourage you to stay for a complementary wine and cheese reception starting at 5:15pm in the Alumni Center AGR Hall.

Many thanks to our campus host:
Program

8:00 – 8:30am  Registration & Light Breakfast

8:30 – 9:15am  Welcome & Keynote Addresses (Ballroom)
Craig McNamara, Sierra Orchards, Solano County
Ken Alex, Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Jerry Brown

9:15 – 10:00am Farmer Perspectives on the Drought (Ballroom)
Joe Morris (Morris Grassfed Beef, San Benito County), Jutta Thoerner (Manzanita Manor Organics, San Luis Obispo County), Tom Willey (T&D Willey Farms, Fresno County) • Moderator: Kellyx Nelson, San Mateo RCD

10:00 – 10:30am Climate & Agriculture Policy: Vision & Action (Ballroom)
Judith Redmond, Full Belly Farm and Renata Brillinger, CalCAN

10:30 – 10:45am Leadership Award Presentations (Ballroom)

10:45 – 11:15am Break & Poster Session (Conference Center foyer)

11:15 – 12:45pm Breakout Session A

Biodiversity: Buffering the Impacts of a Changing Climate (Conference Room A)
Biodiversity on farms is a critical tool for enhancing resilience to expected climate impacts, and provides numerous other benefits. Speakers will share their experiences with a variety of tools for increasing on-farm biodiversity including hedgerows, agroforestry, crop diversity, cover crops and more.
Speakers: Louise Jackson (UC Davis), Paul Hain (Hain Ranch, San Benito County), Tom Broz (Live Earth Farm, Santa Cruz County) • Moderator: Jo Ann Baumgartner (Wild Farm Alliance)

Water Policy & What it Means for California Growers (Ballroom)
California’s historic drought has sparked discussion and catalyzed numerous policy and program developments on groundwater, water infrastructure and water conservation. Speakers will provide an overview on a number of emerging initiatives and their implications for California agriculture.
Speakers: Bryce Lundberg (Lundberg Family Farm, Butte County), Martha Guzman Aceves (Office of Governor Brown), Tim Quinn (Association of California Water Agencies) • Moderator: Dave Runsten (Community Alliance with Family Farmers)

Progress in Assessing Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Alumni Center, AGR Hall)
Assessing the potential for reducing GHG emissions and sequestering carbon in agriculture is inherently challenging given the variability between farms, soils and weather patterns, as well as the complex interactions between management practices and carbon and nitrogen cycles. This session will provide a summary of three research projects examining GHG emissions on organic and conventional farms. Speakers will discuss the trends in the findings and the emerging research challenges, questions and gaps.
Speakers: Alex Gershensen (San Jose State University), Lynne Carpenter-Boggs (Washington State University), Stefanie Kortman (CSU Monterey Bay) • Moderator: Kelly Damewood (CCOF)

Emerging Climate Change & Agriculture Programs (Conference Room B)
The state of California has begun implementing funding programs to incentivize farming practices with climate benefits. This session will provide an overview of the CDFA State Water Efficiency Enhancement Program (SWEEP), bioenergy initiatives, the new farmland conservation funding program, and a forecast of funding prospects for the 2015-16 budget year and beyond.
Speakers: Amrith Gunasekara (California Dept. of Food and Agriculture), Julie Alvis (Natural Resources Agency), Rich Uto (Sakakihara Farms/California Giants Berry) • Moderator: Judith Redmond (Full Belly Farm)

Growing Clean Energy on Farms (Alumni Center, Allewelt Conference Room)
This session will provide practical information on Net Energy Metering (NEM) program and new meter aggregation rules, including
grower case studies, that will help attendees plan and potentially implement renewable energy projects for their operations. An update on possible changes to NEM will also be covered.

Speakers: Kevin Flanagan (ThinkWire Energy Services), Jean Okuye (Okuye Farm, Merced County), Nic Stover (CalCom Solar) • Moderator: Adam Kotin (CalCAN)

12:45 – 2:00pm  Lunch (Conference Center foyer)

2:00 – 3:30pm  Breakout Session B

Agricultural Climate Impacts & Adaptation Strategies (Alumni Center, Allewelt Conference Room)
This session will include a focus on some of the most significant consequences of climate change for California agriculture; ideas about how farmers and farmworkers can adapt, and an overview of the state’s adaptation plans.

Speakers: Katherine Pope (UC Davis Cooperative Extension), Mohammad Safeeq (UC Merced), Veronica Garibay (Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability) • Moderator: JR de la Rosa (Natural Resources Agency)

Climate Solutions on California Farms (Conference Room A)
Researchers will discuss the current science and the most promising farming practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon in California row crops, perennials (orchards and vineyards) and rangelands.

Speakers: Dennis Baldocchi (UC Berkeley), Kerri Steenwerth (UC Davis), Martin Burger (UC Davis) • Moderator: Valerie Eviner (UC Davis)

Practical Solutions to the Drought (Alumni Center, AGR Hall)
In the face of diminished water supply, strategies for storing and conserving water on farms will be increasingly essential for the long-term viability of California agriculture. Speakers will offer practical solutions such as catchment, adaptive water management, water use efficiency and soil management to improve water retention.

Speakers: Brock Dolman (Occidental Arts & Ecology Center WATER Institute), Rich Casale (Santa Cruz NRCS), Russ Lester (Dixon Ridge Farm, Yolo County) • Moderator: Keith Abeles (Sonoma RCD)

Conserving Working Lands as a Climate Protection Strategy (Conference Room B)
California is launching the country’s first farmland conservation program to achieve GHG emissions reductions. This session will provide an overview of the connection between farmland conservation and climate protection, a summary of the new program, and a description of a project at the forefront of integrated urban and rural land use planning using a climate protection framework.

Speakers: John Lowrie (Natural Resources Agency, Department of Conservation), Karen Gaffney (Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District) • Moderator: Ed Thompson (American Farmland Trust)

Strategies for Building Soil Carbon (Ballroom)
Management practices that increase soil organic content have many benefits including carbon sequestration, increased water retention, increased fertility, enhanced resilience to climate change, and more. Speakers will share strategies for building soil organic matter such as cover cropping, mulching and compost, and discuss the practical considerations and tradeoffs.

Speakers: Margaret Smither-Kopperl (Plant Materials Center, USDA-NRCS), Phil Foster (Phil Foster Ranch, San Benito County), Ward Burroughs (Burroughs Family Farms, Stanislaus County) • Moderator: Rex Dufour (National Center for Appropriate Technology)
Compost Policies to Achieve Climate Benefits, Soil Building & Water Storage (Alumni Center, AGR Hall)
The State of California is getting on board with compost: a series of ambitious goals and bills to divert organic waste streams could lead to a significant increase in compost production over the coming years. This group of policy experts will discuss what this means for the future of compost production and consumption in California agriculture.
Speakers: Jeff Creque (Carbon Cycle Institute), Neil Edgar (Compost Coalition), Nick Lapis (Californians Against Waste)  •  Moderator: Ken Dickerson (Ecological Farming Association)

Climate & Agriculture Partnerships (Conference Room B)
One of the most effective ways to achieve changes in farming practices is through the partnership of growers and technical advisors such as UC Extension and Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs). Bringing the latest research and science to bear in real-world farming systems often yields solutions that are both effective and feasible. This session features two such partnerships that are grappling with maximizing the climate benefits of agriculture in practical and economical ways.
Speakers: Jeff Mitchell (UC Davis Cooperative Extension), Michael Crowell (Bar Vee Dairy, Stanislaus County), Sacha Lozano (Santa Cruz RCD), Emily Paddock (Driscoll’s, Santa Cruz County)  •  Moderator: Karen Buhr (California Association of Resource Conservation Districts)

Life Cycle Assessments (Alumni Center, Allewelt Conference Room)
A life cycle assessment (LCA) is a research method that accounts for environmental impacts beyond those occurring directly on farms, including the upstream energy costs and emissions of manufacturing and distributing farm inputs. This session will include an overview of a suite of LCA models for four California orchard crops (walnuts, prunes, peaches and almonds) and some scenarios describing the greenhouse gas footprint associated with various management approaches. Input from participants will be invited.
Speakers: Elias Marvinney (UC Davis), Harbinder Maan (Almond Board of California), Sonja Brodt (UC Davis Agricultural Sustainability Institute)  •  Moderator: Miriam Volat (Occidental Arts and Ecology Center)

Lightning Talks (Ballroom)
This session will feature a smorgasbord of innovations in the arena of sustainable agriculture and climate change. Speakers will present their projects using short, compelling “lightning talks” designed to inspire and communicate their core ideas.
Speakers: Jacob Katz (Trout Unlimited): Fish, Farms & Flood control: Creating Multi-Benefit Solutions to California’s Water and Environmental Crises  •  Chris Tebbutt (Filigreen Farm, Mendocino County): Growing Azolla for Nitrogen Production and Carbon Sequestration  •  Kelly Mulville (Paicines Ranch and Holistic Farming LLC): Can We Drink Ourselves Out of this Mess? A Holistic Model for Recreating Viticulture  •  Justin Rausa (Roots of Change): California Food Policy Council  •  David Morell (Sonoma County Biochar Project): Biochar: Demonstrating the Power of Carbon in the Field  •  Laurel Marcus (California Land Stewardship Institute): Implementing Climate Adaptation Using the Fish Friendly Farming Certification Program
Moderator: Dave Henson (Occidental Arts and Ecology Center)

5:15 – 6:30pm  Complimentary Wine & Cheese Reception (Alumni Center, AGR Hall)
Thanks to our donors of organic wine and cheese!
Leadership Awards

At each Summit, CalCAN recognizes individuals who have demonstrated leadership in climate and agriculture science, policy and practice. It is our honor to announce that the 2015 Climate and Agriculture Leadership Awards go to:

Senator Lois Wolk
Dr. Stephen Wheeler, Associate Professor in Landscape Architecture, UC Davis
Craig McNamara, Sierra Orchards and Center for Land-Based Learning

Speakers

Alex Gershenson, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies, San Jose State University
Alex's current research focuses on the effects of different management on carbon dynamics and energy use in organic agriculture, as part of a multi-disciplinary multi-institutional USDA funded research project. He is also very interested in the development of climate change and carbon policy in the United States, as well as understanding the drivers of corporate sustainability. Alex completed his PhD at UC Santa Cruz, focusing on fine root dynamics in the forests of the Sierra Nevada, as well as soil organic matter dynamics and sensitivity of soil organic matter to substrate and temperature. He did his undergraduate studies at Rutgers University, with a major in Natural Resource Management.

Amrith Gunasekara, Science Advisor to the Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Amrith has been the CDFA Science Advisor since 2011. He works on agricultural issues as they relate to the environment and seeks to find proactive, creative, flexible and practical solutions. His focus areas include plant nutrient management, climate change and environmental stewardship. He is the CDFA liaison to the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel which is looking at highlighting the many benefits afforded by agriculture beyond food, fiber, and economic benefits. Dr. Gunasekara received his undergraduate and master degrees from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and completed his PhD from UC Davis in Agricultural and Environmental Chemistry.

Brock Dolman, Co-Founder/Program Director, Occidental Arts & Ecology Center
Brock co-directs the WATER Institute, Permaculture Design Program and Wildlands Program. He has taught Permaculture and consulted on regenerative project design and implementation internationally in Costa Rica, Ecuador, U.S. Virgin Islands, Spain, Brazil, China, Canada, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cuba and widely in the U.S. He was featured in the award-winning films The 11th Hour by Leonardo DiCaprio, The Call of Life, and Permaculture: A Quiet Revolution. In October of 2012, he gave a City 2.0 TEDx talk. Brock completed his BA in the Biology and Environmental Studies departments at UC Santa Cruz. For over a decade, he has served as an appointed commissioner on the Sonoma County Fish & Wildlife Commission.

Bryce Lundberg, Lundberg Family Farms

Chris Tebbutt, Owner, Filigreen Farm
Chris is a beekeeper, biodynamic farmer, gardener, and garden designer. Filigreen Farm is located in California's Anderson Valley in Mendocino County. The 87-acre property is a mixed biodynamic farm and garden, consisting primarily of high-density orchards and a vineyard.

Craig McNamara, Owner, Sierra Orchards
Craig is the president and owner of Sierra Orchards in Winters, CA, 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. 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.

David Morell, PhD, Vice Chair, Sonoma Ecology Center Board of Directors and Project Manager, Sonoma County Biochar Project
David has many years of environmental policy experience with expertise in regulatory compliance management, air quality management, facility siting, and environmental management systems assessment. He was EPA’s first National Coordina-
tor for NPDES municipal permits and organized and directed the national Office of Transportation and Land Use Policy, Air Programs. Later, in EPA's Region IX office in San Francisco, he directed EPA's innovative Integrated Environmental Management Project in the Silicon Valley. He served as Toxics Coordinator for Santa Clara County and was also Director of Policy for the California hazardous waste program. He has taught at Princeton, Stanford, UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis, and other universities.

**Dennis Baldocchi, Professor of Biometeorology, UC Berkeley**

Dennis received his BS in Atmospheric Science from UC Davis, and MS and PhD from University of Nebraska, in bio-environmental engineering. From 1982 to 1999, he worked at NOAA's Atmospheric Turbulence and Diffusion Division in Oak Ridge, TN. Dennis' research has focused on measuring and modeling trace gas exchange between vegetation and the atmosphere. He is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and has served as Editor in Chief of *Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences*.

**Elias Marvinney, Doctoral Candidate, UC Davis**

Elias is a doctoral candidate in the Horticulture and Agronomy graduate group at UC Davis. He holds a BS in Conservation Biology and Ecology and an MS in International Agriculture Development, as well as a Certificate in Development Practice. His areas of expertise include perennial cropping systems, agroecology, and life cycle analysis. Elias is developing and applying a comprehensive, process-based life cycle model to California orchards, which integrates spatially specific physiological, ecological, and industrial models to estimate the net impacts and benefits associated with orchard production and to identify those aspects and areas of orchard management that present the greatest leverage for reducing greenhouse gas and pollutant emissions.

**Emilio A. Loca, Professor, Plant Sciences, UC Davis**

Emilio is an absentee rancher in Uruguay, where he attained the degree of Agricultural Engineer in 1983. He received a PhD in Ecology at UC Davis with emphasis in ruminant nutritional ecology. Emilion served as Assistant Professor of Range Science in Texas Tech University from 1992 to 1996 and has been at UC Davis since. He has worked on projects in Central Asia, South America, Texas and California. He is interested in the diversity of ways that people acquire and interpret data, with emphasis in the role of subconscious processing. He also has experience in developing projects and protocols for creating and selling carbon credits.

**Emily Paddock, Water Resources Manager, Driscoll’s**

Emily's experience includes tracking Driscoll’s water footprint in the Pajaro Valley, irrigation efficiency research and collaboration on community driven water resource efforts. Driscoll’s has prioritized water resources as one of the top sustainability initiatives for the company in the Watsonville and Salinas areas. Before joining Driscoll’s, she worked for the RCD of Santa Cruz County on the development of performance based targets and incentives for water quality and water use. Emily holds a master's degree in Coastal and Watershed Science and Policy from CSU Monterey Bay.

**Jacob Katz, Director, California Trout**

Jacob was born with gills. Fascinated with what happened below the water line he grew up chasing fish in every creek, puddle, river and pond he could find. Eventually, Jacob was hooked by school taking a PhD in ecology at the UCD Center for Watershed Sciences. He is director of Salmon and Steelhead Initiatives at California Trout, where his work focuses integrating biologic science and natural history into the management and operation of California's water infrastructure and developing ways to get greater wildlife benefit out of working agrarian landscapes while ensuring that California is always home to self-sustaining runs of wild salmon.

**Jean Okuye, Advocate for Agriculture and Protecting Natural Resources, Okuye Farms**

Jean has had a passion to protect agriculture and natural resources since a child, growing up in Lake County, northern California. Her passion helped her transition from teaching piano in Santa Barbara to managing an almond and grape farm in Merced County for the past 35 years. She spent 13 years on the Livingston Farmers Association board. Jean is a charter member of the Valley Land Alliance, a nonprofit with a mission to save farmland which promotes education protecting our resources. She served on the Merced County Farm Bureau board as its first woman president from 2012 to 2014. Jean has the only strawbale house in Merced County and four solar systems on her farm. She currently serves on the Merced County Farm Bureau, Valley Land Alliance, and East Merced Resource Conservation District boards.

**Jeff Creque, Agroecologist, Carbon Cycle Institute/Marin Carbon Project**

Jeff is a co-founder of the Marin Carbon Project and Director of Rangeland and Agroecosystem Management at the Carbon Cycle Institute, where he focuses on Carbon Farm Planning and Implementation. Jeff brings 35 years of applied experience and theoretical training to the task of informing and facilitating the goals of the Marin Carbon Project. Jeff cofounded the Bolinas-Stinson Beach Compost project in 1997, the West Marin Compost Coalition in 1999, and the West Marin Compost Project in 2001. Jeff holds a PhD in Rangeland Ecology, is a California State Board of Forestry Certified Rangeland Manager and is a USDA-NRCS Certified Nutrient Management Planning Specialist and Conservation Planner.

**Jeff Mitchell, Cropping Systems Specialist, Department of Plant Sciences, UC Davis**

Jeff serves as Chair of California’s Conservation Agriculture Systems Innovation (CASi) Center, a diverse group of over 2,100 farmer, university, NRCS, and private sector members working
together on conservation agriculture production systems in California. CASI members have developed production system alternatives that reduce costs typically by $50 to $150 per acre per crop season, lower dust emissions, store carbon in the soil and also improve a number of soil properties and functions.

Joe Morris, Owner, T.O. Cattle Co., LLC and Morris Grassfed Beef
Born in 1962 and raised in the city of San Francisco, Joe is the fifth generation of his family to steward land and cattle in California. In 1993, he and his wife, Julie, founded T.O. Cattle Company and have used the Holistic Management® decision making framework to enhance the health of their community and land and to produce a living from their work. They have two children, Sarah and Jack. T.O. Cattle Company operates on all leased ranches and markets Morris Grassfed Beef™ to 800 families throughout California. Joe has guided over a thousand people across his ranches in the past twenty years, and is a founding member of Rancher to Rancher.

John Lowrie, Assistant Director, California Department of Conservation
John is currently serving as Assistant Director for the Department of Conservation’s Division of Land Resource Protection. His responsibilities include Land Conservation (Williamson) Act implementation, farmland conservation, farmland mapping, support for Resource Conservation Districts, a statewide watershed program and community planning and incentive grants implementation. Prior to joining the Department John worked with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for 29 years, gaining a wide variety of project and program management experience on the central coast, northcoast, northeastern, and Central Valley regions of CA. John served for 10 years with the CALFED Bay Delta Program as manager of their watershed program efforts. He has a BS in Agriculture from CSU Chico.

Judith Redmond, Owner, Full Belly Farm
Judith grew up in California and earned a Masters in Science from UC Davis with a specialty in biological control of plant pathogens. More than 25 years ago, she co-founded Full Belly Farm, a 350-acre certified organic farm in Yolo County growing vegetables, fruits, nuts, and flowers. The farm offers a number of educational programs, including internships, school visits and the annual Hoes Down Harvest Festival. Judith has been involved as an advocate for family farming for many years and serves on the Advisory Board of CalCAN. She is a Fire Commissioner of the Capay Valley Fire District and has been a long-time member of Board of the Community Alliance with Family Farmers. Full Belly Farm was awarded the Leopold Conservation Award in 2014.

Julie Alvis, Deputy Assistant Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
Julie has served as deputy assistant secretary since 2008, overseeing funding, policy, and statewide coordination for Park and Water bond programs within the Agency and its departments. She also serves as key staff to the Strategic Growth Council, a state cabinet-level committee tasked with coordinating the activities of state agencies to support making strategic investments in communities to prepare for climate change and other factors. She previously worked as Assistant to the California Bay-Delta Authority board and the California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee. Julie graduated from UC Davis in 1994 with a BA in English.

Justin Rausa, Policy Director, Roots of Change
Justin brings over a decade of policy work and social justice activism to Roots of Change. As policy director he works in partnership with members of the California Food Policy Council and ROC’s key stakeholders to achieve food movement objectives through statewide agencies and legislature. Prior to joining ROC in 2014, Justin was a program manager for The Greenlining Institute, and served California’s Health in All Policies Task Force by working on land use and healthy food access in the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research. Justin graduated in 2007 with honors from UC Riverside with a BS in Biology. He received his MPH from UC Berkeley in 2012, where he also interned for California Food Policy Advocates.

Jutta Thoerner, Owner, Manzanita Manor Organics
Born in Germany, Jutta was raised on a hay and livestock farm. She received her BS in Biological Science from CalPoly in 2002 and her Masters in Farm Management and Horse Breeding. In 1997, Jutta purchased Manzanita Manor with her partner and has since increased acreage to 200, with 100 acres of organic walnuts. The walnut orchard has been dry farmed for decades. In 2012, she transitioned from wholesale/in-shell to shelled/retail market, and in 2014 added processing equipment, and now all processing, storing, packing, and selling is done on farm. In 2005, Jutta developed a 10 acre organic, biodynamic, no-till vineyard which was worked with horses from 2007 to 2014. She has been crafting and selling organic port-style wine since 2008.

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Manager, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
Karen leads landscape-scale initiatives related to watershed assessment, climate change and conservation prioritization. A graduate of UC Berkeley, she has a Master’s degree in biology from Sonoma State University, is a Switzer Environmental Leadership Fellow, and has served on the boards of the RCD, CS Society for Ecological Restoration, Conservation Corps North Bay and the Watershed Management Council. She is an instructor at the Santa Rosa Junior College in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department. Karen has published peer reviewed papers on riparian corridors and invasive species, co-authored the Pierce’s Disease Manual and is the principal author of local and regional guides to watershed assessment and ecological restoration.
Katherine Pope, Orchard Systems Advisor, Cooperative Extension Yolo County
Katherine covers production research, education and assistance with tree crops in Sacramento, Solano and Yolo Counties. She earned her Ph.D. in Horticulture and Agronomy and an M.S. in International Agricultural Development from UC Davis. Her dissertation research centered on phenology and temperature in almonds, pistachios and walnuts – predicting the timing of bloom based on winter and spring conditions, detecting changes to the timing of bloom as temperatures have increased and examining the potential impacts of increasing temperatures on orchard yield. She previously worked as a Post-doctoral Research Scholar on optimization of fertilizer management in walnuts. Her current research projects range with fertilizer management to disease resistant tree rootstocks to predicting bloom and harvest timing based on winter and spring temperatures.

Kelly Mulville, Director of Farming Operations, Paicines Ranch
In addition to farming and working with livestock for most of his life, Kelly has designed for, consulted with and given presentations to grape growers, farmers and ranchers throughout the western USA, Spain, New Zealand, Australia and China. His studies include Ecological Horticulture at UC Santa Cruz, Viticulture studies at UC Davis and Holistic Management with Allan Savory at The Center for Holistic Management. His work focuses on combining experience in farming and viticulture with holistic management in order to design and create farming systems that are resilient, productive and profitable, in order that they may contribute to the restoration of health, beauty and balance to our ecosystem. Kelly directs farming operations at Paicines Ranch and runs an agricultural design service.

Ken Alex, Senior Advisor to Governor Brown and Director, Office of Planning and Research
A graduate of Harvard Law School, Ken was named “Attorney of the Year” in 2004 for his work in energy law. Before joining the Governor’s Office, he taught courses on environmental law and policy at Stanford and has led the California Attorney General’s energy task force, investigating price and supply issues related to California’s energy crisis. Ken’s current work in the Governor’s office focuses on energy, environment, and land use issues.

Kerri Steenwerth, Research Soil Scientist, USDA/ARS
Kerri has worked as a Research Soil Scientist in the Crops Pathology and Genetics Research Unit in Davis, California since 2004. Her research program examines tradeoffs and environmental impacts associated with sustainable vineyard management practices. Areas of research include understanding how management practices affect greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprints, weed establishment and grapevine health.

Kevin Flanagan, CEO, ThinkWire Energy Services
Kevin is co-founder 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. Kevin is a board member of the San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Cluster and is Fresno Metro Director for the Cleantech Open, a not-for-profit organization that runs the world’s largest accelerator for cleantech startups. Kevin is a graduate of CalPoly, San Luis Obispo.

Laurel Marcus, Executive Director, California Land Stewardship Institute
Laurel has over 30 years of experience in watershed and habitat restoration work in California. She is the author of the Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) and Fish Friendly Ranching (FFR) Environmental Certification Programs, which she directs in nine CA counties. The FFF program has enrolled over 130,000 acres of land and has sparked large restoration projects along the Napa River and numerous creeks. In conjunction with a group of grapegrowers and ranchers, Laurel formed a nonprofit organization, the California Land Stewardship Institute, which operates the FFF/FFR programs and evaluates additional methods to work with farmers and ranchers to improve the California environment. She is an adjunct faculty at Merritt College in Oakland and a native of the Santa Clara Valley.

Louise Jackson, Professor and Extension Specialist, Dept. of Land, Air and Water Resources, UC Davis
Louise is an agroecologist who works on vegetable crops, soil management, nitrogen cycling, and who is especially committed to biodiversity-based agriculture as a means to support ecological intensification of farm management. She works in conventional and organic farms in California. Louise is involved with regional and international organizations on topics related to plant-soil ecology, agricultural sustainability, utilization of biodiversity, and climate change. At UC Davis, she is a professor and extension specialist in the Department of Land, Air and Water Resources. She has authored more than 100 scientific publications and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Lynne Carpenter-Boggs, Assoc. Professor, Dept. Crop and Soil Sciences, Washington State University
Lynne’s primary areas of research and teaching are biologically intensive and organic fertility and farming systems, and beneficial plant-soil-microbial interactions. Because science and society evolve through collaboration, she also works with a broad array of scientists and farmers to understand and improve the carbon footprint of farming, nutritional quality of crops, soil health, and many aspects of sustainability. In addition to her work in the Pacific Northwest and Upper Midwest of the US, Lynne has conducted research and extension in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.
Margaret Smither-Kopperl, Manager, USDA-NRCS California Plant Materials Center
Margaret has been at the USDA-NRCS California Plant Materials Center (CAPMC) in Lockeford CA since 2010. The 106-acre facility carries out studies in support of NRCS conservation goals, develops native plant materials, and focuses on soil health and water quality. She has BSc. and MSc. degrees in Plant Sciences from the University of London, England. She also attended Michigan State University, where she obtained a PhD in Plant Pathology with research on soil borne diseases and cherry tree decline. Margaret’s experience includes horticultural research at Michigan State University, Heriot Watt University, Scotland, the University of Florida, and in private industry.

Martha Guzman-Aceves, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Brown
Martha was appointed deputy legislative secretary for Environment, Energy, Water, and Agriculture by Governor Jerry Brown in 2011. Previously she was an advocate with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, a nonprofit legal services and advocacy organization founded in 1981 to improve rights and opportunities for immigrants, their families and communities. Martha has long been a leader at working with the farming community to both improve conditions for workers and promote best practices on California’s farms and ranches. In addition to her work advocating for environmental justice, Martha is an advocate for occupational health and safety and community health issues.

Martin Burger, Project Scientist, Dept. of Land, Air, and Water Resources, UC Davis
Martin received his doctoral degree in Ecology from UC Davis and now works as a scientist focusing on agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, and irrigation and cover crop management. His study sites are Russell Ranch, as well as on-farm locations in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast area. Prior to that, he worked for the USDA-ARS where he did research on greenhouse gases, tillage and soil amendments in corn-soybean rotations.

Michael Crowell, Owner, Bar Vee Dairy
Bar Vee Dairy is a dairy farm in Turlock with 270 acres of double cropped cattle feed. Michael also farms 400 acres in Solano for various grain and oil crops where he dry farms and uses no till, and has 150 acres of almond orchards in Fresno. Michael’s family has been farming in the Turlock area since the 1890’s and his son, who is now running the dairy, is the 5th generation of CA farmers.

Mohammad Safeeq, Assistant Research Scientist, UC Merced
Mohammad is a research scientist/hydrologist currently working with UC Merced and USFS Pacific South West Research Station on the Kings River Experimental Water Project. His primary research focuses on the complex interaction between land, climate, and water resources at the landscape and regional scales with focus on climate and land use change.

Neil Edgar, Executive Director, California Compost Coalition
Neil is 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. He is co-founder of the California Compost Coalition, a statewide lobbying coalition that focuses on legislative and regulatory development regarding composting and other organics management options. Neil is a member of the U.S. Composting Council’s Legislative and Environmental Affairs Committee and serves as policy chair for the California Organics Recycling Council, a statewide advocacy group dedicated to increasing the sustainable use of recycled organics.

Nic Stover, CEO, CalCom Solar
Nic is the CEO of agriculture solar leader CalCom Solar and founding member of the Ag Energy management company, Polaris Energy Services. Nic has worked with over 300 agricultural growers and water districts to manage their electrical use, get access to the very latest in utility incentives, and maximize their optimal utility rate. Previously Nic led sales of intelligent energy products and services for EnerNOC, the nation’s leading provider of demand response and energy efficiency solutions. Nic earned his BS from Colorado State University and MBA from Babson College, F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business.

Nick Lapis, Legislative Coordinator, Californians Against Waste (CAW)
Nick has been with CAW since 2007, and advocates for the enactment of strong waste reduction and recycling policies and has helped pass several landmark pieces of legislation. Nick also leads CAW’s climate and organics campaigns, and has been an advocate for the development of strong recycling policies at CalRecycle, the California Air Resources Board, and other agencies. He engages in research and advocacy on legislation and regulatory action, representing CAW on a variety of committees, workgroups, and coalitions. Before joining CAW, Nick completed his BS in Environmental Biology and Management at UC Davis and interned for Coalition for Clean Air and the Office of Governor Brown.

Paul Hain, Owner, Hain Ranch Organics
Hain Ranch Organics is a family farm bordering the Tres Pinos Creek in the central coast region of California. The CCOF certified organic operation blends the production of organic walnuts with a Salatin style pastured poultry system. The farm produces about 4,000 broilers and a small pastured laying flock for eggs. A section of orchard is planted with permanent pasture to provide green forage to the poultry during the May through November seasonal production period. On
farm processing provides on-farm and farmers market friends and customers with the highest quality fresh chicken possible while reducing stress on the poultry to a minimum.

**Phil Foster, Owner, Phil Foster Ranch**
Phil farms 295 acres near Hollister and San Juan Buatista, CA. He is in his 26th season of CCOF certified organic production, growing mixed vegetables and tree fruit. He markets mainly into Monterey Bay and San Francisco Bay Areas through farmers markets, direct sales to stores and through several produce distributors.

**Rich Casale, District Conservationist, Santa Cruz NRCS**
Rich has spent most of his 32 years with NRCS in the Monterey and San Francisco Bay area. He is a Certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist. He also has a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Natural Resources Management from Humboldt State University. Rich is one of the original founders in 1982 of the CPESC program which is sponsored by the International Erosion Control Association and the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

**Rich Uto, Sakakihara Farms/California Giants Berry**
Rich has been farming 170 acres of berries in the Watsonville area for the past seven years, and before that he was a flower producer. The farm just received their first organic certification on a portion of the farm. He has worked with the Santa Cruz RCD on some conservation practices and was a recipient of a grant in 2014 for installing soil moisture monitoring equipment on the farm from the CDFA’s first round of funding under the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program.

**Russ Lester, Owner, Dixon Ridge Farms**
Russ is a fourth generation California farmer and began farming organically in 1989. Dixon Ridge Farms is a vertically integrated organic walnut farming and processing operation based in Winters, CA and is one of the largest handlers of organic walnuts in the US. Russ has served on the Board of Directors for Solano Land Trust for over 20 years and is a member of the California Stewardship Council for American Farmland Trust. In 2007, Russ set a company goal to be energy self-sufficient by 2012. Part of the goal was to achieve this while being carbon neutral or negative, using only non-food renewable fuels and maintaining steady production growth. Since then, Dixon Ridge has reduced its processing energy needs and GHG outputs by over 100%.

**Sacha Lozano, Program Manager, RCD of Santa Cruz**
Sacha leads the RCD’s work on agriculture and conservation, working with growers, landowners and private and public partners to advance sustainable management of water, nutrients and soil in the County’s farmlands. He is also involved in a regional effort to assess the economic value of ecosystem services and return on investment resulting from conservation and stewardship actions. Prior to joining the RCD in 2012, Sacha worked for four years at NOAA’s Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary as a bilingual education program coordinator, developing watershed and ocean literacy programs for Spanish speaking communities in the Monterey Bay area. He has an academic background in marine ecology and natural systems for wastewater treatment.

**Sonja Brodt, Agricultural Sustainability Institute, UC Davis**
Sonja coordinates the Agriculture, Resources, and the Environment theme for the UC Davis Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, part of the Agricultural Sustainability Institute. Major initiatives include the California Nitrogen Assessment, greenhouse gas and energy footprinting of several California food production and supply chains, identification of global agricultural sustainability indicators, and development of an integrated outreach approach combining new social networking tools with traditional extension methods to communicate information to farmers and other stakeholders. Sonja holds a BA in Biology, an MS in International Agricultural Development, a PhD in Geography, and a Permaculture Design certificate.

**Stefanie Kortman, Research Assistant, CSU Monterey Bay**
Stefanie is a native Californian with a passion for sustainable agriculture and the environment. She helped develop a soil GHG research program at CSU Monterey Bay, where she has continued to manage agriculture GHG research projects for several years. Her work has focused on monitoring GHG emissions from farms under different management practices in the Monterey Bay region. She enjoys working with farmers, researchers, and policy makers to help find solutions to mitigate GHG emissions while sustaining soil fertility and viable farm business. Stefanie is also a mother of three boys and enjoys outdoor adventures with her family, and above all hopes to contribute to improving the way humans interact with the environment so her children can have a more promising future.

**Tim Quinn, Executive Director, Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)**
ACWA, the largest water organization of its kind in the nation, is a statewide association whose 450 local public water agency members are responsible for about 90% of the water delivered in California. Tim has more than 25 years of experience in California water issues. He has worked on several key policy initiatives, including the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan, 2002 Sacramento Valley Water Management Agreement, 2000 CALFED Record of Decision, 1995 Monterey Agreement, 1994 Bay-Delta Accord, and a number of water transfer agreements. Prior to joining ACWA, Tim served as principal economist with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in 1985, and became deputy general manager in 1994. He earned his bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Colorado and his master’s and PhD in economics from UCLA.
Toby O’Geen, Soil Resource Specialist, UC Davis Cooperative Extension
Toby is a native Californian with degrees in soil science at Cal Poly (BS), Washington State University (MS) and University of Idaho (PhD). His research focuses on the application of soil-landscape relationships to address issues related to agricultural productivity, environmental quality and natural resource management. His recent research focuses on: 1) the efficacy of constructed wetlands to filter agricultural tailwaters ultimately destined for surface water bodies; 2) assessment of soil ecosystem services in rangelands; 3) connectivity between streams and hydrologic flowpaths in rangeland soils; 4) repackaging soil survey into decision support tools for land management; and, 5) new soil survey delivery mechanisms (apps) for the public.

Tom Broz, Owner, Live Earth Farm
Live Earth Farm is an 80 acre organic farm that serves an 800-member CSA and markets directly to a diverse network of farmers markets, stores, community food programs and restaurants. Since the farm’s inception, community outreach and education have always been part of its mission. In 2008 the farm formed a non-profit currently educating over 2,000 kids and youth offering eight core programs. Tom’s passion for farming was sparked growing up in Ecuador’s agrarian environment which led him to study agriculture at Cornell University. He joined the Peace Corps and worked for the Environmental Protection Agency before settling down with his family in Watsonville to start farming on his own. Live Earth Farm celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

Tom Willey, Owner, T&D Willey Farms
Tom with his wife, Denesse, has operated T&D Willey Farms since 1981, a 75 acre certified organic farm in Madera, California growing a wide array of Mediterranean vegetables year round. Willey Farms produce is appreciated in specialty markets and fine restaurants and on the tables of over 800 weekly CSA subscription members. Tom was Slow Food USA’s Governor for California’s Central Valley and advocates for local food prominence through his writing, speaking, radio and event organizing activities. His monthly “Down on the Farm” radio interview program features the work of progressive farmers and others prominent in San Joaquin Valley’s agriculture and food communities. Tom has served on the boards of directors of EcoFarm and CCOF. He currently serves as a Policy Advisor to The Cornucopia Institute which monitors the integrity of the U.S. organic industry.

Valerie Eviner, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Sciences, UC Davis
Valerie closely collaborates with private and public land managers in rangeland, restoration and conservation in California’s grasslands, oak woodlands, and riparian systems. Her research focuses on understanding interactions between plants and soils to increase our understanding and management of: ecosystem services, plant invasions, restoration, plant community composition, global change, and resilience of natural and working landscapes.

Veronica Garibay, Co-Founder and Co-Director, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
Based in the San Joaquin and East Coachella Valleys, the Leadership Counsel works alongside the most impacted communities to advocate for sound policy and eradicate injustice to secure equal access to opportunity. Veronica lead’s the organization’s climate change and land use work in the San Joaquin Valley to create strong and equitable policies related to climate change and SB 375 implementation. She works with diverse partners through both coalitions and collaborative projects and has effectively elevated the importance of prioritizing planning and investment in disadvantaged communities in the San Joaquin Valley and at the statewide level.

Ward Burroughs, Burroughs Family Farm
A native Californian, Ward is part of a five-generation farm family that has farmed in the state for more than 100 years. Ward and Rose Marie (Rosie), along with their children, own and operate three certified organic farms in California’s San Joaquin Valley and one in Oregon. Their organic farms produce almonds, award-winning olive oil and Gouda cheese, and raise pigs, beef, chickens, turkeys, dairy products and eggs. The Burroughs are committed to sustainable, organic family farming and to promoting the preservation of quality farmland. In addition to their earth-friendly pasturing system, they’ve planted hedgerows of more than 80 varieties of native plants to provide habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects. As organic farmers, the Burroughs don’t rely on any synthetic inputs.

Wendell Gilgert, Working Lands Program Director, Point Blue
Wendell was born and raised on a fourth generation family farm in San Joaquin County. He earned his BS in Biological Science and MS in Plant and Soil Science from CSU Chico. His 34-year career with the Soil Conservation Service began in 1977 as a Cooperative Education Student. He then went on to serve as a soil scientist in Nevada, and a Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist and Area Conservationist in Northern California. Wendell has served as a Staff Wildlife Biologist for the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Management Institute and as a NRCS State Biologist for California. He now leads Point Blue’s Rangeland Watershed Initiative. Wendell currently serves on the Steering Committee for the California Rangeland Watershed Coalition and as a science advisor to the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.
Thanks to our generous sponsors:

Promotional Partners

Ag Innovations Network, Agricultural Sustainability Institute at UC Davis, Berkeley Food Institute,
California Business Alliance for a Clean Economy, California Interfaith Power & Light,
California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, CCOF, Community Alliance with Family Farmers,
Community Food & Justice Coalition, Ecological Farming Association, Occidental Arts & Ecology Center, The Center for Food Safety