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October 17, 2019 | News from



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## Funding Available for Climate-Smart Water Projects

Another application period for the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) is expected to open on **October 21**.

SWEEP provides cost-share grants of up to \$100,000 to growers to install more efficient irrigation systems, including subsurface drip irrigation, solar-powered pumps, and remote soil moisture monitoring equipment. These irrigation system improvements can increase farmers' yields while reducing their energy and water costs. They can also improve fertilizer and weed management by helping farmers apply water more precisely when and where their crops need it.

According to a [presentation](#) by the California Department of Food



and Agriculture (CDFA), which administers the program, approximately \$7 million dollars will be available and no changes have been made to the [previous round's Request for Grant Applications](#), which is still available online along with [other application resources](#).

[Read the full post on our blog.](#)

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## Wildfire Smoke Protection Protocol

On December 13, 2018, after the Camp Fire became the deadliest and most costly wildfire in California history, blanketing Sacramento and much of the Central Valley in smoke, the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (OSHSB) received a joint submission from Mitch Steiger, [California Labor Federation](#); Douglas Parker, [Worksafe](#); and Anne Katten, [California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation](#), seeking emergency regulatory protection of outdoor workers from the harmful effects of wildfire smoke.

After months of advisory meetings, regulation 5141.1 "Protection from Wildfire Smoke," went into effect on July 29, 2019. The newly adopted regulation uses the local air quality index (AQI) for PM2.5 to determine when worker protections are needed and includes mandatory activities for employers of outdoor workers who "reasonably anticipate that employees may be exposed to wildfire smoke".

For example, employers must:

- Monitor the Air Quality Index (AQI) for PM2.5
- Provide training to workers, including how to determine AQI, identify health effects of wildfire smoke exposure, and how to use NIOSH-approved respirators
- Establish worker protection procedures, including a plan to reduce worker exposure to wildfire smoke
- Communicate the above workplace procedures to staff and employees

The [Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety \(WCAHS\)](#) at UC Davis has developed resources in English and Spanish, including an employer checklist, training poster, and accompanying discussion guide, to assist agricultural employers with meeting the requirements outlined in the newly adopted regulation and communicating the required topics to employees.

[Read the full post on our blog.](#)

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## In the Field with Climate Farmer Leaders





*Judith Redmond, Full Belly Farm and Craig McNamara, Sierra Orchards addressing members of the Environmental Grantmakers Association.*

Recently CalCAN helped to organize two farm tours to demonstrate climate solutions offered through sustainable agricultural practices. We work to bridge our network of producers with legislators and the greater community in order to amplify their work as climate leaders. On these most recent tours we discussed the challenges and opportunities of transitioning to climate-smart agriculture practices and how these farmers maintain viability in the face of climate change.

On the first tour with the Environmental Grantmakers Association, we visited Kristyn Leach of Namu Farm, she grows two acres of heritage Korean vegetables in Winters. We also visited Craig McNamara with Sierra Orchards and Judith Redmond from Full Belly Farm. The two farms manage similar farm acreage, implement similar regenerative practices, and are located in similar regions, with a similar focus on soil health as a way to sink carbon and increase water-holding capacity of the soil.

The second farm tour was organized with the office of Assemblymember Robert Rivas (D-30, Salinas) who coordinated the tour in his district for other legislators on the agricultural committees in the Assembly and Senate.

We worked with Linda Chu of Benito Valley Farms to host the policymakers along with a number of our partners from the region and UC Cooperative Extension Climate Smart Outreach Specialists. The focus was on the state's Climate Smart Agriculture programs and, in particular, the Healthy Soils Program.

We believe that farmers and ranchers have powerful stories to tell and that their experiences are important for policymakers to hear so they understand how to support growers in delivering climate solutions.

[Read the full post on our blog.](#)

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## Sign-On to Support Agriculture's Climate Solutions

*"We the undersigned farmers and ranchers, write to express our deep concerns about climate change impacts on agriculture in the United States and to call for solutions that invest in our rural and agricultural communities."*

**[Join farmers from across the country in calling for federal climate action. Click here!](#)**

We are working to bring together farmer rancher voices calling for increased investment in organic and sustainable agriculture practices that have known climate benefits. We urge you to join us as we call on members of Congress and USDA leaders to implement effective policy seeking increased technical assistance, incentives and research for agriculture's climate solutions.

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### Events

#### **Sonoma RCD SWEEP Workshop**

Sonoma RCD

**October 30 • 5-6:30pm • Santa Rosa, CA**

[More information](#)

#### **From Soil Health to Gut Health**

The Vine Food and Ag Innovation

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### Funding

#### **Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP)**

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Up to \$20,000

Applications due October 31, 2019

[See details.](#)

**October 22 • 6-8pm • Davis, CA**

[More information](#)

**Demystifying on Farm Beneficial Microbes**

UC Cooperative Extension

**October 24 • 3-6pm • Woodland, CA**

[More information](#)

**Food-Tech and Ag-Tech Meetup**

The Vine Food and Ag Innovation

**October 30 • 4-6:30pm • Chico, CA**

[More information](#)

**The Organic Grower Summit**

CCOF & OPN

**December 4-5 • Monterey, CA**

[More information](#)

**Small Farm Tech Expo**

CAFF & The Farmers Guild

**December 9 • Forestville, CA**

[More information](#)

**Regenerative Agriculture Field Day**

Swanton Pacific Ranch

**January 21 • 8-5:30pm • Davenport, CA**

[More information](#)

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**Biologically Integrated Farming Systems**

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Eligibility: colleges or universities, local and federal government entities, tribal governments and non-profit organizations

Proposals due October 31, 2019

[See details.](#)

**Farmer/Rancher Research and Education Grants**

Western SARE

\$20,000 for one producer or \$25,000 for 3 or more producers

Proposals due November 11, 2019

[See details.](#)

**Regional Conservation Partnership Program**

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Eligibility: Organizations interested in partnering with NRCS

Applications due December 3, 2019

[See details.](#)

**Grants for Livestock and Poultry Farmers**

Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)

Eligibility: livestock and poultry farmers who wish to attain humane certification, build capacity, or improve pasture for their animals.

Applications due December 2, 2019

[See details.](#)

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## Jobs

**Greenbelt Alliance**

Director of Climate and Resilience

San Francisco, CA

[See details.](#)

**Climate and Land Use Alliance**

Associate Director of Programs

San Francisco, CA

[See details.](#)

**Sonoma County Resource Conservation District**

Project Manager

Santa Rosa, CA

[See details.](#)

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