

# Reducing Our Carbon Mouthprint: Food and Climate

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/15/opinion/letters/carbon-food-climate.html>

May 15, 2019



CreditCreditCari Vander Yacht

## To the Editor:

A flurry of stories in The Times covers many aspects of the link between climate change and agriculture. This growing awareness makes it increasingly possible to pass public policy to encourage farming practices that benefit the environment rather than harming it.

Several states are doing just that. California has a suite of programs that subsidize farmers to sequester carbon in soil, conserve water and reduce methane emissions on dairies, investing more than \$300 million to date. New Mexico just established a [Healthy Soils Initiative](#) to accelerate soil health practices, and Massachusetts is [debating a bill](#) to do the same. New York has a [Climate Resilient Farming Program](#) that gives grants to farmers.

These types of farmer-centered, incentive-based, state-level programs could unleash the power of farms and ranches to curb our ever-increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

Renata Brillinger  
Sebastopol, Calif.

*The writer is executive director of the California Climate and Agriculture Network.*