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September 25, 2019 | News from



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and Ranchers](#)

## **Legislative Update: Efforts to Advance Climate Solutions for Agriculture Stall This Year**

The legislative session wrapped up on Friday, September 13th and unfortunately, the Governor did not make meaningful advancement on the issues of climate change and agriculture this year.

## [AMMP Awards Announced](#)

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As we reported earlier, [investments in climate smart agriculture](#) were cut overall this year, with the notable exception of a large increase in funding for the Healthy Soils Program.

Additionally, CalCAN's two sponsored bills, Adaptation Tools Bill (AB 409) and SWEEP 2.0 (AB 1086) failed to advance.

Lastly, efforts to advance climate adaptation and resiliency policy failed to gain support from the Governor. Last-ditch efforts by some in the legislature to pass a climate bond, while unsuccessful, would have left behind any meaningful investment in agriculture and food system resiliency.

Moving forward we will continue to build our alliances with rural and urban partners to make the case that sustainable agricultural solutions to a changing climate are necessary for our food security, health, and long-term viability.

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

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Forward



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# Action Alert!

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

CalCAN is joining over a hundred organizations across the country to call on farmers and ranchers to [sign onto a letter](#) to members of Congress urging them to take action on climate change. As a member of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC), we are working to elevate the issue of climate and agriculture policy at the federal level by bringing farmer and rancher voices to the table with thousands of signatures on this letter.

We know that farmers and ranchers are on the frontlines of climate change, already experiencing impacts from severe heat, extreme rains and devastating wildfires. We know that there is an urgent need to address the climate crisis and its impacts on agriculture.

We believe that sustainable and organic farmers and ranchers can be resilient to extreme weather events, store excess carbon in our soils and trees and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. But we need California's producers to join thousands of other producers across the nation to ask policymakers and federal administrators to help us meet the challenges of a changing climate and become part of the solution.

**If you are a farmer or rancher, please [sign on here.](#)**

NSAC will use this letter in meetings with members of Congress, USDA program leaders, and other key decision-makers to urge effective policy action to combat climate change, and especially to help farmers and ranchers weather the storm and lead the way towards a more sustainable future.

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## CDFA Announces Alternative Manure Management (AMMP) Awards

This year, [a record number](#) of dairy operators sought state climate investment funds for their operations. Over 90 producers applied to the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP), administered by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Last week, CDFA announced that 50 of those applicants received AMMP funding for their projects for a total of \$31.4 million. CDFA awarded an additional \$1.2 million for AMMP demonstration projects.

[In our recent blog](#), we take a look at the AMMP projects funded and provide some background on the state's efforts to reduce methane emissions from dairy and livestock operations.

The San Joaquin Valley continues to have the majority of AMMP awards with 41 out of the 50 projects in the valley. This year, CDFA also funded 8 AMMP projects on north coast dairies.

Solid separation and compost bedded pack barns were among the most popular of the AMMP funded projects with 31 and 15 projects, respectively, including those practices in their designs. Six of the fifty projects included flush-to-scrape conversion of their manure handling and storage. Of the 50 projects, 31 one of them included composting of their manure as one of their project activities.

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

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## Compost Key to Sequestering Carbon in Soil



This is reposted from the California Department of Food and Agriculture, *Planting Seeds* blog, written by Kat Kerlin. [See original post.](#)

A recent study by UC Davis found that compost is a key to storing carbon in semi-arid cropland soils, a strategy necessary for offsetting carbon emissions.

For the 19-year study, [published in the journal \*Global Change Biology\*](#), scientists dug roughly 6 feet down to compare soil carbon changes in conventional, cover-cropped and compost-added plots of corn-tomato and wheat-fallow cropping systems. They found that:

- Conventional soils neither release nor store much carbon.
- Cover cropping conventional soils, while increasing carbon in the surface 12 inches, can actually lose significant amounts of carbon below that depth.
- When both compost and cover crops were added in the organic-certified system, soil carbon content increased 12.6 percent over the length of the study, or about 0.7 percent annually. This is far more carbon stored than would be calculated if only the surface layer was measured.

The results also indicate an opportunity to provide multiple, interconnected benefits to farmers and the environment by improving soils, offsetting greenhouse gas emissions, and transforming animal and food wastes into valuable soil fertility.

[Read the blog for more details.](#)

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## CSU Chico Journal of Regenerative Agriculture

California State University, Chico's [Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems](#) has recently launched a Journal of Regenerative Agriculture. The Journal is an online, peer-reviewed research journal, published by members of the regenerative agriculture community including academics, scientists, Coop Extension agents, governmental agencies, NGOs, farmers and agriculture Industry representatives.

The Journal of Regenerative Agriculture is now accepting journal submissions. Including: original research, literature reviews, case studies and commentaries.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## CDFA Farmer Resource Portal

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) recently released a [Farmer Resource Portal](#) as a "one-stop shop" for farmers and ranchers to quickly access key information about available grants, loans and information on CDFAs regulations and policies.

The webpage also includes links to new Spanish-language CDFAs social media handles, press releases in English and Spanish and will include an interactive map of California's technical assistance providers who provide resources in multiple languages.

The Farmer Resource Portal was developed under the Farmer Equity Act of 2017.

[Click here to access the Portal.](#)

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## Funding

**2020 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program**  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
\$50,000 - \$450,000  
Concept proposals due October 18, 2019  
[See details.](#)

**Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP)**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Up to \$20,000  
Applications due October 31, 2019  
[See details.](#)

**Biologically Integrated Farming Systems**  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Eligibility: colleges or universities, local and federal government entities, tribal governments

## Events

**Women's Leadership in the Food Movement**  
Red H Farm  
**September 28 • 10-6pm • Sebastopol, CA**  
[More information](#)

**Organic Research Farm Field Day**  
Organic Seed Alliance  
**September 29 • 12-5pm • Pescadero, CA**  
[More information](#)

**Cattle, Carbon and Compost: Soil Health Workshop**  
Yolo County Resource Conservation District  
**Oct 1 • 9-11am • Esparto, CA**  
[More information](#)

**Carbon Farm Planning Training**

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.](#)

### **Disaster Assistance for Farmers and Ranchers**

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Eligibility: California farmers and ranchers affected by wildfires in 2018 and 2019  
[See details.](#)

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## **Jobs**

### **University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources**

Climate and Agriculture Project Scientist  
Merced, CA  
[See details.](#)

### **National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition**

Conservation Policy Specialist  
Washington, D.C  
[See details.](#)

### **Humboldt County Resource Conservation District**

Forest Health Watershed Coordinator  
Eureka, CA  
[See details.](#)

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Carbon Farming Network  
**Oct 3 • 9am-5pm • Los Banos, CA**  
[More information](#)

### **Soil Health Tech for Climate Resilience**

UC Merced  
**Oct 9 • 10am-2pm • Merced, CA**  
[More information](#)

### **Soil Health Academy**

CSU Chico  
**December 3-5 • Chico, CA**  
[More information](#)

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## **Alliance Members**

Send us available funding, events and job opportunities and you will receive primary listing in our newsletters.

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