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**September 20, 2010**

## **Proposition 23: A Threat to California Agriculture**

Prop 23, on the November 2010 ballot, would derail California's landmark climate change and energy policies and slow the growth of our burgeoning green tech economy. It would freeze action on many of these policies until unemployment reaches 5.5% or less for one consecutive year. This has happened only three times in the past 34 years. Prop 23 has received 98 percent of its funding from oil companies and 87 percent from out-of-state entities.

So what does this have to do with farming?

California agriculture is uniquely vulnerable to the consequences of even gradual changes in climate. Unless the worst impacts of climate change are avoided, scientists warn that farms and ranches will be increasingly susceptible to severe water shortages, a loss of crucial winter chill hours for fruit and nut tree crops, intensified pest and disease pressures, and more extreme and unpredictable weather patterns.

An April 2010 report from a team of 16 state agencies found that if warming trends continue "the agricultural sector stands to lose the most under a business-as-usual scenario" - up to \$3 billion per year by 2050. Decreased water availability alone could produce losses of up to \$1,700 an acre in California. Energy price increases from relying on volatile and increasing fuel prices can be expected unless we transition to a renewable energy supply. Farmers, already operating on thin margins, cannot afford to absorb these costs.

In the face of these challenges, farmers need to become even more resilient and take advantage of the clean

technology investments that have been made in California - according to the National Venture Capital Association, since 2006 venture capitalists have invested \$10 billion in California's renewable energy industry. Moving forward with California's groundbreaking climate policies could offer California's farmers and ranchers real incentives and resources to adopt more climate-friendly agricultural practices. Implementing systems that improve on-farm water and energy efficiency, capture carbon in the soil, and produce renewable energy are just some of the ways farmers can actively reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the more than 400,000 farming jobs in the state.

Prop 23 would essentially halt these efforts by blocking AB 32 implementation and the progress it would make towards cleaner energy and air in our state. It's a direct threat to California's farmers.

Prop 23 is backed by out-of-state oil companies with no stake in the future of California's economy or farmers. Prop 23 is opposed by a huge and bipartisan group of businesses, organizations and farms including CalCAN, Community Alliance with Family Farmers, American Farmland Trust, Ecological Farming Association, Organic Valley, Earthbound Farm, and more (a complete list can be found at <http://www.stopdirtyenergyprop.com/our-coalition.php>).

**We urge your organization, farm or business to endorse the No on Prop 23 campaign at:**  
<http://www.stopdirtyenergyprop.com/>

## **Introducing CalCAN's New Outreach Coordinator**

We are pleased to welcome Matthew Green to the CalCAN team. He started in September as our Outreach Coordinator, and will be helping to expand the CalCAN network and managing media and communications. Matthew has a passion for and familiarity with organic and sustainable agriculture and food systems. Most recently, he implemented a project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to work with 30 communities across



the country to organize around health-related issues of food insecurity. He also has a background as a print journalist and freelance writer, writing extensively about food policy, environmental justice and urban agriculture. He has also worked as a teacher in East Oakland and in various non-classroom learning settings.



## **New CalCAN Fact Sheets on Climate Change & Agriculture**

CalCAN has recently published three new fact sheets that are [downloadable from our web site](#):

1. California Agriculture & Climate Change: Understanding Climate Change Impacts
2. California Agriculture & Climate Change: Climate Solutions in Agriculture
3. What Does California Climate Legislation Have to Do with Agriculture?

## **On-Farm Conservation Grants Due**



The deadline for applications to the California Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation grants is November 12, 2010. This applies to all California Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) priorities, except the EQIP Organic Initiative (no application deadline yet available).

NRCS's EQIP program priorities eligible for this sign up include, but are not limited to:

- Water Quality - Animal Feeding Operations (AFO)
- Water Conservation / Drought Response

- Wildlife Habitat Improvements
- California Air Quality
- Grazing Lands Management
- Forest Lands Management

For more information, go to: [http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/news/releases/2010/eqip\\_whip-9-13-10.html](http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/news/releases/2010/eqip_whip-9-13-10.html)

## Upcoming Events

### **Hoes Down Harvest Festival**

October 2nd & 3rd, 2010

Full Belly Farm · Capay Valley, Yolo County, CA



Educational farm tours, a magical children's area, hands-on workshops, farm products and an abundance of organic food, live music and good times!

Details found at <http://www.hoesdown.org/>.  
Benefit for the Ecological Farming Association.

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### **The Integrated Vineyard, What's in Your Toolbox?**

November 2nd, 2010

8:30am - 3:30pm

Shone Farm in Forestville, CA

Admission: \$40 with lunch and morning snack. Space is limited.

To register: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/126667>

For questions contact: [bjmatthes@comcast.net](mailto:bjmatthes@comcast.net)

Some of the topics for the day include:

- Vineyard Floor Management
- Cover Cropping in Vineyards
- Engineering Available Water Capacity for a Low-Water Use or Dry-Grown Vineyard
- Appropriate Rootstocks for Low Water Use Vineyards
- Irrigation Distribution Uniformity and the Vineyard Mobile Water Lab
- Creating Habitat for Ecological Pest Management Habitat Connectivity in a Vineyard Landscape
- Collaborative Evaluation of Carbon Stocks in Vineyard/Woodland Landscapes

## Job Postings

### **Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)**

OFRF is hiring a Policy Organizer (in Santa Cruz) and a Policy Intern (in Washington DC). For more information, visit their [Jobs and Internships page](#).

### **Agricultural Sustainability Institute (ASI) at UC Davis**

ASI is looking for a Communications Coordinator. More information is posted on their web site at: <http://www.asi.ucdavis.edu/about/jobs>

### **National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC)**

NSAC needs a Grassroots Organizer to work on their 2012 Farm Bill Campaign, and a Policy Associate. Details can be found at <http://sustainableagriculture.net/about-us/jobs/>. California Certified Organic Farmers is recruiting for several positions: Interim Executive Director , Executive Director , Director of Marketing, Member Services and Development, and Office Manager. For more details, see: <http://www.ccof.org/employment.php>

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