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Update on Prop 23

As reported in our September newsletter and [blog](#), we are tracking Proposition 23, a November 2nd ballot initiative. Prop 23 is largely funded by out of state oil companies, and it would essentially freeze California's landmark clean air and energy law, AB 32 (the Global Warming Solutions Act).

Prop 23 is opposed by a large 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 the [No on Prop 23 website](#)).



California producers have been publicly expressing their opposition in newspapers around the state, emphasizing the connection between climate change, clean energy policy and agriculture. Here are some examples:

- **Russ Lester**, an organic walnut farmer and processor in Winters, had a compelling piece on October 15 in the [Capital Press](#)
- **Zeke Grader**, executive director of the Pacific

Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, wrote an op-ed in the October 9 [Eureka Times Standard](#)

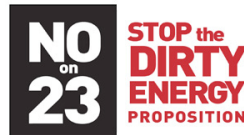
- **Jon-Mark Chappellet**, an organic Napa County wine grape grower, spelled out wine industry reasons to oppose Prop 23 in the Sept. 21 issue of the [Napa Valley Register](#)

- **Cindy Lashbrook** of Riverdance Farms, and a Board member of Community Alliance with Family Farmers and CCOF, spoke at a press conference in Fresno on Sept. 23, making the farming case for opposing Prop 23

Take Action!

We urge you to join leaders in California's sustainable agriculture community in opposing Prop 23:

- Vote No on Prop 23 on November 2
- [Spread the word](#)
- [Endorse the No on Prop 23 campaign](#) - especially if you represent a farm, organization or business
- [Write a letter to a newspaper in your area](#)



CalCAN 2.0

We invite you to visit our redesigned [website](#). There you can read our weekly blog, which has useful analysis and news on topics related to sustainable agriculture and climate policy in California. We encourage comments and any ideas for new topics. Below are links to recent posts.

[Deadline extended for Conservation Stewardship Program enrollment](#) - *The NRCS has extended the FY 2011 sign-up period for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) until January 7, 2011.*

[Climate Ag Legislation Roundup](#) - *Get a status report on AB 2530, AB 1405 and AB 1504.*

[Organic Ag Missing from State Research](#) - *At a recent meeting at the California Air Resources Board, organic agriculture's insignificance was the reason given for the lack of inclusion of organic farming systems in the state's effort to understand how farming practices affect nitrous oxide (N2O) emissions.*

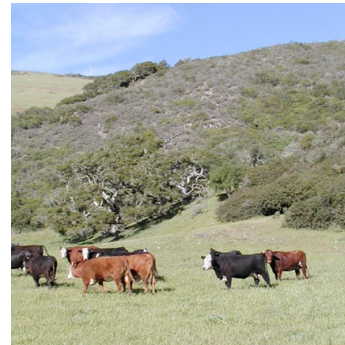
We have also launched [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages, which we also encourage you to visit and contribute to.

We've been expanding the reach of our message by submitting and publishing guest posts on widely read blog sites, including recent pieces in [Alternet](#), [Change.org](#), [Food Democracy Now](#), and [Triple Pundit](#). Check them out!

Williamson Act Reinvigorated

In a recent [blog](#) we reported on a bill signed by the Governor (AB 2530) that will keep the [Williamson Act](#) on life support. On October 19, Governor Schwarzenegger further improved the situation by signing into law [SB 863](#), a budget trailer that restates and makes improvements to AB 2530 and importantly adds \$10 million to the budget for Williamson Act subventions.

The Williamson Act enables contracts between local governments and private landowners in order to preserve specific parcels of land for agricultural or related open space use. Landowners, in exchange, receive lower than normal property tax assessments and local governments receive an annual subvention of forgone property tax revenues from the state. Last year, as a result of budget tightening, the state suspended subvention payments to local government.



Farmer Workshop on

USDA Conservation Programs



The Organic Farming Research Foundation is hosting a free day-long workshop for organic and transitioning farmers and ranchers on how to shape the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Services programs so they work better with organic agriculture systems. This workshop will educate organic and transitioning producers about how USDA conservation programs work and what they can do to make these programs work better for them.

This is a free workshop, with breakfast and lunch provided. Travel and lodging stipends are available upon request.

When: Monday, November 15, 8:30am - 5:00 pm

Where: UC Davis, [Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources Bldg](#), Hopkins Road at Hutchison Drive

RSVP: Tracy Lerman, OFRF Policy Organizer, tracy@ofrf.org or (831) 426-6606 x 108

More Info: [Download the event flyer](#)

Limited space available - please RSVP by November 5.

Cosponsors: UC Davis Agriculture Sustainability Institute, Center for Rural Affairs, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Farm Aid, Midwest Organic And Sustainable Education Service, California Certified Organic Farmers

Event: Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival

Join Community Alliance with Family Farmers and CLIF Bar for a night of good food, music and compelling new [films about sustainable food & environmentalism](#).

Date: Thursday, October 28

Time: Food and music 5:00 - 7:00pm; Program 7:00 - 9:30pm

Location: CLIF Bar Headquarters, 1451 66th St, Emeryville
Tickets: \$20-\$30 sliding scale, available at [Brown Paper Bag Tickets](#)
For more info: 510-832-4625

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