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March 14, 2011

There is still space for you to join us at the Climate & Agriculture Summit!



March 31, 2011

UC Davis Conference Center

8:00am - 5:30pm

Wine & cheese reception at 5:30pm

Special Guest: CDFA Secretary Karen Ross

This Summit will explore some of the latest developments in science and on-farm practices that show promise for reducing agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and sequestering carbon, with an emphasis on organic and sustainable agriculture solutions.

Participants will include farmers and ranchers, agency staff, policymakers and advocates concerned with issues of climate change challenges and opportunities for California agriculture.

Topics:

- Impacts & Adaptation: What to Expect & How to Cope

- Taking a Whole Farm Approach to Climate Protection
- Farm Power: On-Farm Renewable Energy
- Climate Benefits of Rangeland Conservation
- Technical Assistance for Producers
- Soil Management: Impacts on GHG Emissions & Carbon Sequestration
- Calculators & Credits
- Researcher/Farmer Partnerships
- Farmland Protection
- Dairies & Climate Change
- State & Federal Policy Updates

Registration Information:

The [CalCAN website](#) has more information, including a program and speaker list, and a link to register on line.

Farmers & Ranchers.....	\$35
Extension, RCD, NRCS staff.....	\$35
General Registration	\$85

Registration fees include a light breakfast, an organic lunch, and the wine and cheese reception.

A Path Forward for Dairy Digesters in California

Hosted by the Climate Action Reserve
 March 15, 2011
 10:00 - 11:30 AM (Pacific)

Description: Many California dairies are interested in pursuing the installation of an anaerobic digester, especially since the upcoming cap-and-trade program will allow for U.S.-based livestock projects to generate carbon offsets that can be sold for compliance use. However, the state's Central Valley has incredibly serious air quality problems, leading to the need to strict controls on new sources of emissions, such as the combustion of biogas. This webinar will include presentations from both regulators and project developers that are working to find solutions and move these projects forward in CA. There will also be information on the adoption of the Climate Action Reserve Livestock

protocol by the California Air Resources Board, and what this means for dairy projects all over the country.

To register:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/517085329>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Springtime on the Farm 2011 April 3, 2011 · Noon to 4:00pm

Springtime is right around the corner and everyone is invited to take a break from city strife to experience the awakening of life. The Center for Land-Based Learning is hosting Springtime On The Farm on Putah Creek, Sunday, April 3, 2011 from noon - 4:00pm.

This fun afternoon is free of charge. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy with friends and family. The Farm on Putah Creek is an easy driving distance from Sacramento and very close to Davis.

For more information and driving directions visit the [Center for Land-Based Learning](#)'s web site or call 530.795.1520

Symposium on Food Systems & Public Health

May 25 - 27, 2011

Monterey, CA

The Symposium, which is casually called **S3 2011 (* Safe * Secure * Sustainable)** in Monterey will bring together experts in their respective fields to share information and to participate in panel discussions, with an emphasis on food systems as they relate to both the agriculture and sea food industries. Sessions will be attended by local business professionals, ocean research scientists, environmental health specialists, students, public health officers, and agriculture and food industry leaders.

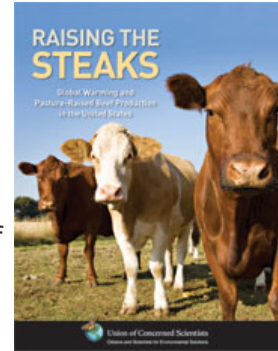
For more information please visit: www.californiafood.org

New Report: Beef Cattle & Carbon Sequestration

This report entitled [Raising the Steaks: Global Warming and Pasture-Raised Beef Production in the United States](#), released recently by the Union of Concerned Scientists, describes how farmers who raise beef on pasture can reduce global warming emissions by storing, or sequestering, carbon in pasture soils.

It concluded that U.S. pasture beef producers could reduce their annual global warming impacts by as much as 140 million metric tons, the equivalent of taking 21 million cars and light trucks off the road.

Carbon sequestration, the report found, has the most potential for mitigating pasture beef's climate impact. Such practical methods as preventing overgrazing, increasing pasture crop productivity with a mix of crops, and adding adequate amounts of nutrients from manure, legume crops or fertilizers, could capture significant carbon dioxide emissions from a variety of sources. The UCS report recommended a number of approaches that would reduce the impact of pasture-raised beef. Most of them are more suitable for the finishing stage of fully pasture-raised cattle systems -- which have environmental and nutritional advantages over CAFOs -- but they also could apply to the many months CAFO-bound cattle spend grazing on rangeland.



One key is to improve cattle's diet, which, in some tests, reduced methane production of pasture-raised cattle by 15 to 30 percent. More research is needed to accurately estimate its potential to reduce cattle emissions nationally. Animals fed on rapidly growing or more nutritious types of grasses and other pasture plants, which are more easily digested, produce less methane than cattle eating older or otherwise less nutritious pasture plants. On this more

climate-friendly diet, the animals also grow faster, need less food, and therefore produce fewer emissions.

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