

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



## In This Issue

April 18, 2011

[Take Action on SB 489](#)

[CalCAN Leadership Awards](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Policy Intern Opening](#)

### Quick Links

[About CalCAN](#)

[Donate to CalCAN](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

## Call Your State Senator - Support the Renewable Energy Equity Act!

Please call your State Senator today! On April 28th, the Renewable Energy Equity Act (Senate Bill 489) will go up for a committee vote in the California State Senate.

The Renewable Energy Equity Act proposes to open California's Net Energy Metering (NEM) Program to all eligible forms of renewable energy. This will allow farmers, ranchers and food processors to more easily and economically convert their renewable byproducts into clean renewable energy and to off-set their electricity use, help reduce the need for new power plants and transmission infrastructure and save money on their power bills.

Make your voice heard and support sustainable agricultural solutions to climate change.

Please call your State Senator today.

### It's easy to call:

Go to <http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-zipsearch.html> and type in your zip code. Call the Sacramento office number of your State Senator. Ask to speak to the staff person who handles renewable energy issues.

The message is simple. "I am a constituent of Senator \_\_\_\_\_ and I am calling to ask him/her to support SB 489, the Renewable Energy Equity Act. SB 489 will

help the state reach both its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and its renewable energy goals by allowing farmers to connect innovative renewable energy projects to the grid."

**Report your call:**

Please let us know you called. Drop us a line to:

[jmerrill@calclimateag.org](mailto:jmerrill@calclimateag.org)

For more information on SB 489 - including a fact sheet, a link to the bill language, and a sample letter if you prefer to fax your comments, please go to the [CalCAN website](#).

### CalCAN Presents Leadership Awards

CalCAN presented two leadership awards at our Climate & Agriculture Summit on March 31st for the contributions of two individuals to CalCAN's efforts in 2010 to assure that the issues and interests of sustainable agriculture are represented in climate policy debates.

The scientist award went to Louise Jackson, a professor and an Extension Specialist at UC Davis who focuses on agricultural adaptation to climate change. Louise combines scientific rigor with a pragmatic approach to applications on farms. Louise routinely involves farmers, including organic producers, in her work every step of the way. CalCAN has called on Louise on numerous occasions to make presentations to farmers and technical advisors at field days and workshops, and to provide scientific overviews on the impacts of climate change on agriculture and summaries of how it can adapt to legislative staff. We greatly appreciate her generosity and commitment to a viable and sustainable agriculture system.



Rich Rominger received the farmer award. In addition to operating a fourth-generation diverse farming operation in Yolo County - a job he has passed along to the fifth generation - Rich served as the Secretary of CDFA under Jerry Brown's first administration and was also Deputy Secretary of USDA under the Clinton administration. At CalCAN, we have greatly valued Rich's willingness speak about the sometimes controversial topic of climate change in order to assure that agriculture will be prepared to face the challenges ahead and remain sustainable. Rich provided input on a set of policy recommendations to the new Governor on the subject of climate change and agriculture, as well as advocating in agriculture circles for the two bills that CalCAN is sponsoring this year. It has been a true honor to benefit from his experience and knowledge.



The awards were presented by CalCAN farmer advisor Judith Redmond of Full Belly Farm, in front of a packed house of 200 people at CalCAN's Climate & Agriculture Summit. Videos of some of the sessions and powerpoint presentations will be available within a couple of weeks on the [CalCAN website](#), so stay tuned.

## Upcoming Events

**Understanding Climate Change Mitigation &  
Adaptation in California Agriculture  
- A Workshop for NRCS, RCD and Extension Staff -**

**Friday, May 12, 2011**

## Five Points, CA



This free workshop for NRCS, Extension and RCD staff will focus on the relationship of climate change and agriculture. The workshop will include presentations from UC and CSU researchers, NRCS and Extension specialists on climate change impacts on California agriculture, opportunities within agriculture to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate, how energy savings can help the bottom line and the latest on conservation tillage research. There will also be a tour of Red Rock Ranch, an innovative, diversified fruit and vegetable operation. The tour will highlight the farm's use of water and soil conservation practices.

DATE: Friday, May 12, 2011

TIME: 8:30am - 4:00pm. Lunch will be provided.

LOCATION: West Side Research & Extension Center

17353 West Oakland Avenue, Five Points, CA

RSVP: To ensure your space in the workshop, please RSVPs by May 9th to [renata@calclimateag.org](mailto:renata@calclimateag.org). Space is limited.

### TOPICS:

- Climate change impacts on California agriculture - Peter Van de Water, Assistant Professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences, CSU, Fresno
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies - Johan Six, Professor of Plant Sciences, UC Davis
- How to improve the bottom-line and save energy - Jacqui Gaskill, Energy Specialist, NRCS, USDA
- Latest developments in Conservation Tillage research - Jeff Mitchell, Systems Specialist, UC Cooperative Extension

- Tour of Red Rock Ranch - John Diener, owner

SPONSORS: NRCS, UC Cooperative Extension, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, Dixon Ridge Farms, and the California Climate & Agriculture Network. Funded by Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education.

## **Organic Valley Farm Tour**

**May 3, 2011**

**Burroughs Family Farm · Denair, CA**

Spend the day with the multi-generational Burroughs family, California Organic Valley Farmer/Owners, and learn the answers to questions about organic dairy farming.



What you will learn:

- Organic Valley cows are pastured--is milk from pastured cows better?
- What are the changes for Organic fluid milk producers from the new 2010 NOP Pasture Standards Ruling effective in June 2011?
- How is Organic Valley different from other organic milk companies?
- What does "farmer-owned" really mean?
- How is organic really better?
- Why does it cost more?
- What's the latest research on organic products?

For more information and to RSVP:

[karen.innis@organicvalley.coop](mailto:karen.innis@organicvalley.coop) · (608) 625-3280

## **Preserving Agriculture In The Face Of Climate Change - Food, Farming And You**

**Thursday, May 26, 2011**

**Petaluma Community Center**

Join leaders from Sonoma County government, business, agriculture, education and nonprofit organizations for the seventh annual conference. Help realize the vision for our region that includes a healthy business environment and an exceptional quality of life. Come explore the possibilities and solutions.

For more information and to register online:

[www.everybodyprofitssonoma.com](http://www.everybodyprofitssonoma.com)

### **CalCAN is Looking for a Policy Intern**

CalCAN is looking for a policy intern for the summer of 2011, from June through September. The policy intern will have the opportunity to assist in state level policy coordination, working closely with CalCAN's Policy Director. Activities will include developing new contacts in key legislative districts; development of policy program materials; participation in policy conference calls with the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition on federal climate policy; farm field day event planning coordination. The intern will also have the opportunity to write newsletter/blog articles, opinion editorials and/or letters-to-the-editor.

A [job announcement](#) can be downloaded from the CalCAN website.

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to [info@calclimateag.org](mailto:info@calclimateag.org) by [info@calclimateag.org](mailto:info@calclimateag.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

CalCAN | PO Box 1366 | Sebastopol | CA | 95473