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**Climate & Agriculture Summit:  
Registration Now Open**

**March 31, 2011**

**UC Davis Conference Center**

**8:00am - 5:30pm**

**Wine & cheese reception at 5:30pm**

**Registration Information**

Click [here](#) for a program and speaker list.  
Click [here](#) to register.

Farmers & Ranchers.....	\$35
Early Bird General Registration (before March 1).....	\$70
General Registration (March 1 - March 25).....	\$85

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

If you are interested in volunteering on the day of the Summit for a one-hour shift, please contact us at [info@calclimateaq.org](mailto:info@calclimateaq.org) for more information. Volunteers will receive a 50% discount on their registration.

**Craig McNamara Appointed President of the California State Board of Food & Agriculture**

We at CalCAN were pleased to hear last week that Craig McNamara - a member of the CalCAN Farmer Advisory Council - was appointed by Governor Brown as the next President of the California State Board of Food and

Agriculture. The State Board advises the Governor and the Secretary of Agriculture on agriculture and consumer policy issues for the state.

Craig is president and owner of Sierra Orchards, a diversified farming operation that includes field, processing and marketing operations, producing primarily walnuts. He also serves as founder and president of the Center for Land-Based Learning. Craig is a founding trustee of UC Merced, a member of the UC Davis Dean's Advisory Council, and a board member of American Farmland Trust.



"Governor Brown has chosen an agricultural leader who has a strong conservation ethic to lead the State Board of Food and Agriculture," said Rich Rominger, CDFA Secretary under then-Governor Brown from 1977 to 1982 and Deputy Secretary of USDA from 1993 to 2001. "Craig McNamara will bring an innovative and thoughtful leadership to help the industry and the state come together to address some of our most pressing issues."

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Climate & Agriculture Workshop for NRCS, RCD and Extension Staff**

**Feb. 24, 2011**

**Solano County**

The workshop will include presentations from UC Davis researchers and Extension on climate change impacts on California agriculture, as well as opportunities within agriculture to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate. You will also have a tour of Dixon Ridge Farms, an innovative organic walnut producing and processing

operation. The tour will highlight the farm's use of biomass combined heat and power and on-farm conservation practices.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Jeanne Merrill at [jmerrill@calclimateaq.org](mailto:jmerrill@calclimateaq.org).



## **California Duck Days**

**Feb. 25 and 26, 2011**

California Duck Days is a wetlands festival in the heart of the Pacific Flyway. A gala reception and Wildlife Art Show will launch the festivities on Friday evening February 25 at the Davis Arts Center, from 5:30 to 7:30pm. This event is free to the public. On Saturday February 26 the festival will feature one full day of field trips, workshops and other activities at the Yolo Wildlife Area Headquarters facility in South Davis.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

## **Statewide Forums on Jobs, Economic Development & Sustainable Communities**



Committed to the future of rural communities.

USDA Rural Development is once again working with a wide variety of partners throughout the state to host a series of forums on Rural Jobs and Economic Development. As dates, times and locations are confirmed they will be added to their website at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca).

The agendas for the forums include:

- Report on accomplishments and activities toward meeting recommendations in the report: "[Jobs, Economic Development and Sustainable Communities: Strategizing Policy Needs and Program Delivery for Rural California](#)".
- Ask if there are issues and/or recommendations that need to be added/changed or prioritized.
- Offer opportunities for individuals and/or groups to champion various action items in the report.



## **Funding News**

### **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign-up Announced**

On Friday, January 28, USDA announced that a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up will be held from March 14 to April 14, 2011. This is the 40th general sign-up for the CRP and the second since 2006. The last general sign-up was held last year, and enrolled over 4 million acres across the country.

Under a CRP general sign-up, the USDA Farm Service Agency collects and ranks offers from farmers to enroll highly erodible and environmentally sensitive land in the program. The land is taken out of production and long-term, resource conserving cover vegetation is established to control soil erosion, improve water and air quality, and enhance wildlife habitat. Contracts awarded under this sign-up will become effective Oct. 1, 2011.

For more information and guidance on signing up, see the website of the [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#).

## CalCAN is Hiring

CalCAN is looking for an Outreach Director to be responsible for the following activities:

- Expansion of CalCAN's network, with an emphasis on outreach and education of farmer leaders
- Co- organizing farm field days
- Assisting with the coordination and promotion of other events as needed
- Production of factsheets and other outreach and education materials
- Media and CalCAN network communications

Eligible candidates will have a minimum of three years' campaign strategy and organizing experience, and some background in media and communications, as well as knowledge and interest in sustainable agriculture.

Please see the CalCAN website for a [full job announcement](#).

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