



ROC Pushing for Change: Progress Evident

Greetings!

Spring is in full force. The soil is still moist in much of the state, the hills are green and flowers are blooming. We love it!

ROC Policy Work Succeeding

Food and agriculture policymaking is also underway at full force. As hoped, the two bills sponsored by Roots of Change are moving through the legislature.

Expansion of the California Nutrition Incentive Act

The [Assembly Agriculture Committee](#) passed [AB 2335 \(Phil Ting, San Francisco\)](#) on April 11th. It now goes to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. If passed, the bill will create a statewide pilot program to demonstrate how proprietors of corner stores in low-income communities can successfully sell fresh fruits and vegetables.



The pilot would provide refrigerated display boxes and technical assistance to establish nutrition incentive programs. Assemblymember Ting is also requesting \$15 million from the state's general fund to support the expansion: \$5 million for the corner store pilot and \$10 million for the ongoing nutrition incentive program found in farmers markets, at farm stands and through CSA box programs.



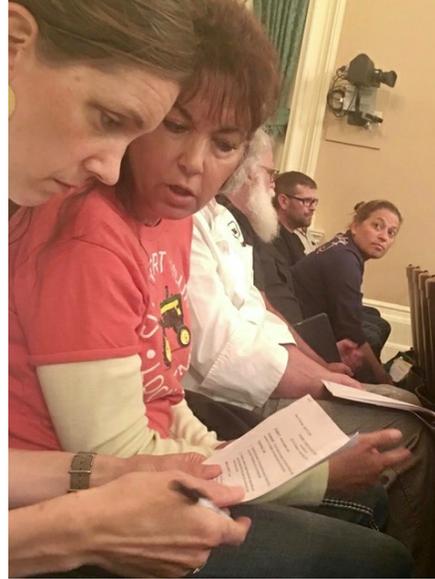
Small Poultry Producer Protection Act

On April 25th, the Assembly Agriculture Committee passed [AB 2909 \(Dr. Jim Wood, Healdsburg\)](#). [Chef Duskie Estes](#), of Food Network and [Zazu Kitchen + Farm](#) came along with chicken farmer Richard Coon of [Wookey Ranch](#) and testified before the Committee.

During the public comment period, the Committee heard support for the bill from local butcher Eric Miller of [V Miller Meats](#); [Kathryn Quanbeck](#), meat processing and marketing specialist; Kelly Osman of [Oz Family Farm](#); the duck man [Jim Reichardt](#) of [Sonoma County](#)

[Poultry Liberty Ducks](#) and [Chef Patrick Mulvaney](#) of [Mulvaney's B&L](#). It now goes to the [Assembly Appropriations Committee](#). The bill intends to eliminate outdated and burdensome regulations that hampered the expansion of small farm poultry and rabbit production. An [impressive list](#) of small farmers, chefs, sustainable agriculture advocates, environmental health officers and retailers from across the state have joined local food system advocates in supporting this long-needed bill. If passed, small farm incomes will rise, jobs will be created and more safe, local, organic, pastured poultry will become available.

From Lf to Rt: Kathryn Quanbeck, Kelly Osman, Jim Reichardt, Chef Estes and Eric Miller waiting to testify before the committee.



Bills We Are Watching



California Farm Bill – A First for our State

Chair of the Assembly Committee, [Anna Caballero](#) (Salinas), has introduced a very interesting bill [AB 2166](#), the California Farm Bill. This is the first omnibus farm bill in our state's history. It would provide over \$68 million in General Funds to support new and existing programs within the [Department of Food and Agriculture](#), the University of California [Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources](#) and the Community College system. ROC has long imagined and sought allies who might catalyze a bill that would finally commit serious state resources to support agricultural resilience, healthy food access and regional food systems. With its exclusive focus on ag-tech, the current bill does not possess the lens we would have used, but it contains many elements we do support. We believe [this guest blog](#) from Paul Muller, co-owner of the renowned [Full Belly Farm](#), and [Ryan Peterson](#), a graduate student at UC Berkeley with an interest in farm policy, raises critical questions related to the bill. Please have a look and let us know what you think. ROC would like to support the bill and is working with the author's office to amend language we feel is critical to setting the correct trajectory for implementation of a California farm bill.

California Food and Agriculture Index

The index contains data points that inform ROC's decisions to pursue policies or programs. The following explain why ROC focuses on small farm viability. Of California's 77,600 farms, 32 percent are 10 acres or less. The vast majority of farms generate less than \$100,000 each in annual revenue. Of those, 55 percent require the owner to earn money off the farm. Our sponsorship of the Small Poultry Producer Protection Act emerges from our efforts to lower needless burdens and help our small farms thrive.

Percentage of farms that are less than ten acres: **32%** 

Average sales of farms that are less than ten acres:

27,000

Number of farms with gross sales of under \$100,000 in 2015:

56,000 or 73%

Number of farms with gross sales of over \$1 million:

6,750 or 9%

Roots of Change
www.rootsofchange.org

CALIFORNIA FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INDEX

May 2018 become a great year for you and all of us who are committed to transforming food agriculture, the foundational system upon which all other human activity rests.

Thank you!



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