



Busy as Bees, the Food Movement is Jamming & We're in the Mix

Greetings!

Before other news, we'd like to invite you to join us for this upcoming event on April 3rd:



Farming to Save the Earth

Join us for a conversation with

- **Paul Dolan**, biodynamic grape grower, former Chairman, Wine Institute; Former President, Fetzer Vineyards, and
- **Michael R. Dimock**, President, Roots of Change

Hosted by the Commonwealth Club

Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 7:00 - 9:00pm

Location: Outdoor Art Club, One West Blithedale, Mill Valley, CA

[Click to RSVP](#)



Update on our 2019 policy work

We hate to report that the [Small Poultry Producer Protection Act](#) will not be considered by our Legislature in 2019. We were unable to find an author for the bill. It reflects how few legislators are committed to small farmers. We recognize that the bill effects hundreds of farmers, not thousands, and those farmers are spread across the state, not in one district. When a legislator analyzes whether to introduce and shepherd the bill through the

long process, the bill seems like major work impacting few who will vote for them. But we are not giving up. We will work to fix the unjust suppression of small farmer opportunities by working with the CA Department of Food and Agriculture on administrative changes to the law and/or by seeking an author who will lead in the Legislature next year.

We still have a big policy agenda that will require many trips to Sacramento and many calls with campaign allies. And we will need

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your support to do it all. **Please consider a [donation](#) for our policy work in 2019.**

Here is what your donation will support



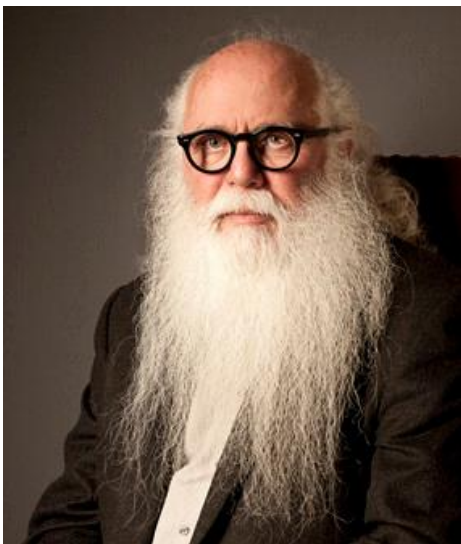
We will join the [California Climate and Agriculture Networks](#)' two campaigns to help stem global warming. The first is a **budget request of \$50 million** for the [Healthy Soils Program](#), the nation's most groundbreaking policy providing farmers and ranchers with financial support for building soil, measuring and sharing results with others. The program makes agriculture a solution to global warming by capturing excess atmospheric carbon in the soil and increasing farm and ranch resilience in the face of droughts, fires

and floods of climate chaos. We will also push for passage of [Assembly Bill 409](#), the **Climate change: agriculture grant program** (authored by Monique Limon of Santa Barbara). This will provide grant funds to farmers and ranchers developing plans to adapt to climate change by implementing [climate-smart agriculture practices](#).



A bill to place a **statewide health impact fee on sugary drinks** is back in the Legislature. [Assembly Bill 138](#) (authored by Richard Bloom of Santa Monica) is a long-shot because BIG SODA buys votes through campaign contributions. This year is a real test of legislators. ROC will use social media and our podcast to call out those elected officials that are in the pockets of BIG SODA and its fueling of the obesity epidemic that kills people. We have seen it before in tobacco, pesticides and opioids. Corporations will put profit before people. We meet with the

author and our allies in the campaign today to assess how to proceed and have maximum impact. Even if the bill cannot move through the process, we will seek to make enough noise this year to support a ballot measure for all the Californians to vote on in 2020. We'll keep you posted.



Our latest Flipping the Table Podcast

Michael has an honest and revealing conversation with [Dr. Howard-Yana Shapiro](#), Chief Agricultural Officer of Mars, Inc., the privately-held food company most well-known for their M&Ms.

Dr. Shapiro is brilliant and controversial because he was a co-founder of the groundbreaking organic seed and food company, [Seeds of Change](#), prior to Mars. Some see him now as part of the industrial food complex that is the cause of many problems. We think that is too simplistic. We invite people to listen carefully because there is much to applaud and celebrate in Dr. Shapiro's work. We are most encouraged by his uncommon collaboration that is supporting resilience into the

“orphan crops” of Africa using the latest genetic typing tools and traditional breeding on a mass scale. Moreover, his projects are providing ownership of the intellectual property not to the corporations, but to the people that have tended these crops for millennia. Whether or not one agrees with the industrial model or capitalist frame, we believe it's important for change advocates to hear Dr. Shapiro's story because the movement's impacts on big food are clear.

Podcast with Dr. Howard-Yana Shapiro
Chief Agricultural Officer of Mars, Inc. on
Disrupting Agriculture: Regenerative Agriculture, Gene Editing and
the Challenge of Reaching Societal Agreement
Part I & Part II



Thank you!



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A Program of the Public Health Institute

 **Roots of Change**



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