

PULSE
OF THE FOOD MOVEMENT

Farmers Who Are Climate Heroes

Greetings!

Farmers around the nation are being battered by the climate crisis. Denial of the changes underway is difficult when you experience the extremes of drought, flood, wind and fire, all within a brief number of years. Farmers are speaking up and out about what they are doing to deal with the increasing impacts. Here are but three examples: one from the southern California coast, one from the Heartland of California, one from the Heartland of the Nation. All of them give us hope that policymakers will finally catch on to the need for employing farmers and ranchers across the nation in the effort to combat the climate crisis.

Flipping the Table Features A Conversation with Chris Sayer, Ventura County Farmer



Chris farms near the coast in Ventura County, California. Lemons and avocados are his crops, but the soil and the future are his foci. He tells us how he is increasing the farm's resilience and offers thoughtful perspectives on the incredible productivity of Ventura agriculture, the future of cannabis production in his region, and the pros and cons of California's tight regulations over farms and ranches. We think you'll be surprised and inspired by his assessment of what makes California agriculture great.

Listen to the podcast episode with Chris Sayer on one of these platforms:



Alan Sano is a farmer from the Great Central Valley of California, the nation's primary source of high-quality produce. We applaud his efforts to use his farm to help solve the problem and those of

our allies participating in the [CalCAN](#)-led campaigns to empower farmers to capture carbon and increase farm and ranch resilience. We agree with Mr. Sano and CalCAN that California must greatly increase investments in the state's groundbreaking policies: [Healthy Soils Program, SWEEP and AMMP](#). These programs help our farmers combat and adapt to global warming. Here is Mr. Sano's [excellent opinion piece](#) from last week's New York Times. (Photo credit: California Ag Today)



[Gabe Brown](#) farms multiple crops and cattle in North Dakota. He is inspiring a movement of farmers seeking to become more resilient by building soil organic matter, which means capturing carbon. [Here is a video](#) of a talk Mr. Brown gave describing the five principles of nature that he uses to become a solution to our biggest challenge and to make more money doing it.

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Policy Update

As we have reported, it has been a hard year for many of our policy goals. One of our four highest priority bills, Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Act, became law via the budget bill. One other, AB 409, remains alive. We thank our partner, the [California Food and Farming Network](#), for keeping us well informed on the status of our remaining priority bills.



[AB 409](#) Climate Adaptation Tools. Author Monique Limon (Santa Barbara). Establishes a grant program to aid farmers and ranchers who work to increase resilience of their operations and prioritizes support for small-scale and farmers of color. **IN SENATE APPROPRIATIONS.**

[SB 285](#) CalFresh Connect. Author Anthony Wiener (San Francisco) Improves CalFresh enrollment, especially among those receiving Medi-Cal with special attention to seniors through simplified applications and retention systems. **IN ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS.**

[AB 842](#) Hunger-Free Preschool. Monique Lemon (Santa Barbara) and Susan Eggman (Stockton) Ensures that all low-income, public preK students have access to a free- or reduced-price meals and all childcare providers utilizing the ChildCare Food

Program receive supplemental state funding. **IN SENATE APPROPRIATIONS.**

AB 1022 California Anti-Hunger Response & Employment Training Act. Author Buffy Wicks (Oakland) Establishes a training program to fight hunger among individuals who have been determined ineligible for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by a cruel federal time limit. **IN SENATE APPROPRIATIONS.**

The Coming Year



We are a bit past the half way mark of summer. The kids are heading back to school and the fields, orchards and our gardens are delivering nature's bounty. Amidst these joys, we are already planning our 2020 goals. We'd love to hear from you about what you'd like to see from Roots of Change. Send us your food system goals for the coming year and we'll see if we can find alignment. Email us at mail@rootsofchange.org. In the subject line write "2020 goals." Thank you.

Thank you for your interest and your support!



Doris Meier
Publisher, Pulse of the Food Movement
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 **Roots of Change**



mail@rootsofchange.org | www.rootsofchange.org