

PULSE Of The Food Movement, Vol 4, Issue No 1

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March 29, 2018
Volume 4, Issue 1



Dear << Test First Name >>,

We are working our tails off here at Roots of Change. The sections below will reveal our efforts to pollinate a new food and farming system!

ROC Leads Two Policy Advocacy Campaigns

[Small Poultry Producer Protection Act](#) (Author: Assemblyman Dr. Jim Wood, Healdsburg)

ROC is sponsoring AB 2909 to help small-scale poultry and rabbit farmers become economically viable. Until now they have been crushed by outdated regulations.



For the first time, the bill will allow these farmers to hire non-family members to help them process birds on-farm. It will also allow them to sell to restaurants, retailers, hotels and food service companies if they follow best management practices. The Department of Food and Agriculture will require these practices to ensure humane treatment of animals and food safety, including source traceability. Chefs, farmers, and retailers are enthusiastically supporting our

traceability. Shoppers, farmers, and retailers are enthusiastically supporting our effort.

To join the list of supporters, please send an email to info@rootsofchange.org. State your name and say “I support AB 2909.” We’ll add your name to our [published list](#).

[Update & Extension of California Nutrition Incentive Act](#)

(Author: [Assemblyman Phil Ting](#), San Francisco & Co-Author [Rob Bonta](#), Oakland)



In 2014, 2015 and 16 ROC campaigned to pass federal and state legislation to improve access to healthy food. There are now federal and state nutrition incentive grant programs that assist families receiving [CalFresh](#) (food stamps) to increase their purchase of fresh produce.

Consequently, nearly \$15 millions in state and federal funds have aided low-income families to purchase fresh and local California produce since 2015.

This year we are co-sponsoring with [Latino Coalition for a Healthy California](#), [American Heart Association](#) and [Public Health Institute](#), AB 2335 to update the CA law.

The bill creates a pilot program to include small corner stores in the state’s incentive program. At the same time, we are working with the budget process to increase California’s funding for incentives, provided as matching dollars to CalFresh families buying produce.



We seek \$10 million for farmers markets, farms stands and CSAs and \$5 million for the corner store pilot.

To join the list of supporters, please send an email to info@rootsofchange.org. State your name and say “I support AB 2335.” We’ll add your name to our [published list](#).

Michael R. Dimock’s Latest Blog re GMO 2.0



Recently in Austin at SXSW 2018, ROC’s president represented the voice of concern and resolution to the conflict around GMOs in our food system. He shared a dais with three proponents of the technology who believe we are beyond the Monsanto mistakes that destroyed public trust.

Here are [Dimock’s opening remarks](#), brief and to the point, that clarify why GMO 2.0 is not yet beyond Monsanto.

Help Launch the ROC-sponsored Podcast *Flipping the Table: Dialogues with the Revolutionaries Transforming Food and Farming*.

We need your support to launch this effort. Contributors of \$60 or more will receive a ***Vote for Your Food*** tee shirt. **Organic and American Made!** [Please hit this link to donate](#). To learn more about the planned podcast hit [this link](#).



Featured Policy Campaign Led By Allies:

[Community Water Center](#) Seeks Clean Water for All

[SB 623](#) (Author [Bill Monning](#), Carmel)



The bill would establish the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund. The money would come from a fee levied on farms and ranches buying fertilizer (a major source of pollution), a fee levied on dairy farms (manure being another major source of pollution) and a tiny monthly fee on higher income households. The fund would supply safe drinking water for all California residents by addressing unmet service and infrastructure needs. We like this bill because all people living in California deserve access to clean water and both environmental justice groups and most of agriculture support the bill's passage. Learn more about the bill [here](#).



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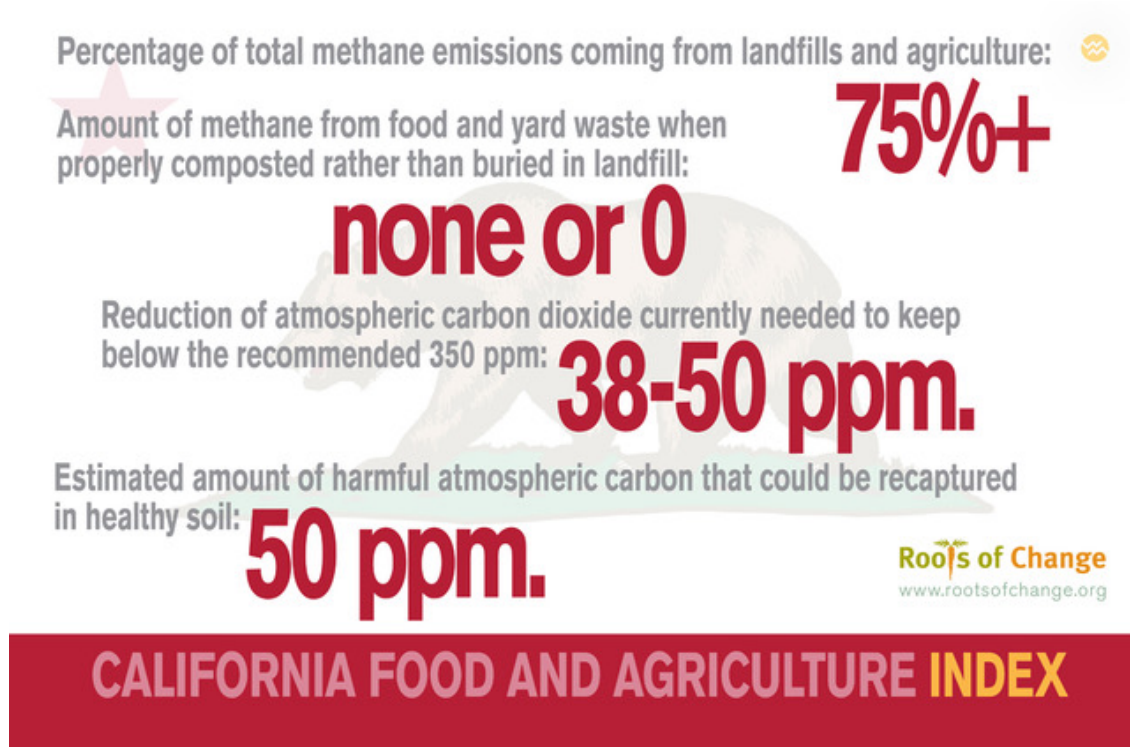


CALIFORNIA FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INDEX

Important Facts From the Latest Food and Farming Index

Soil could be the super tool in California's drive to minimize the harm that will

come from global warming in this century. Agriculture is one of the largest sources of global green house gas. It can also be one of the best solutions if farmers concentrate on building their soils. One way to build soils is to use compost. There is a synergy between city folks and farmers and compost is the key. When we compost green waste properly we stop emissions of methane from landfills, one of the largest sources of this highly destructive gas. Many California communities now compost yard waste and kitchen scraps. This means every Californian can become a source of compost for farms and ranches building soil. It's a healthy closed loop. Here are some factoids that reveal why California should invest more in its soil.



Look for our next blast in 2 weeks!

Thank you for your support,

Michael Dimock
President, Roots of Change
Strategic Advisor, California Food Policy Council



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