



## Advocating for a Healthy & Resilient Food System

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Dear Doris,

The action continues: ROC spent time advocating in Sacramento to save [Market Match](#), and in Washington D.C. reiterating the need for a healthy and resilient food system including programs for Food as Medicine with congressional staffers and USDA representatives. ROC also attended a fantastic Farm to School event on the [Richards Regenerative](#) ranch, and in our latest Flipping the Table podcast episode, Tim Johnson, CEO of the [California Rice Commission](#) shares his insights on the future of rice and more. And, finally, if you haven't seen Common Ground yet, it is being screened on [Earth Day, April 22nd](#) in many cities across the US! For details, see below.

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### CNIP Advocacy Day - Save Market Match!

It is hard to believe but the incredibly successful [California Nutrition Incentive Program \(CNIP\)/Market Match](#) is on the chopping block! The Governor's proposed budget would cut \$33.9 million from the \$35 million secured in the budget last year for CNIP, which funds the Market Match program. ROC joined a large group of allies in Sacramento on Wednesday, March 20, for the Save Market Match day with legislator meetings, hearings, and a rally at the Capitol steps.

*Advocating to keep  
Market Match alive.  
Meeting with an ally to  
voice our strong opinions:  
Asm. Dr. Jim Wood was  
extremely supportive of  
our cause.*



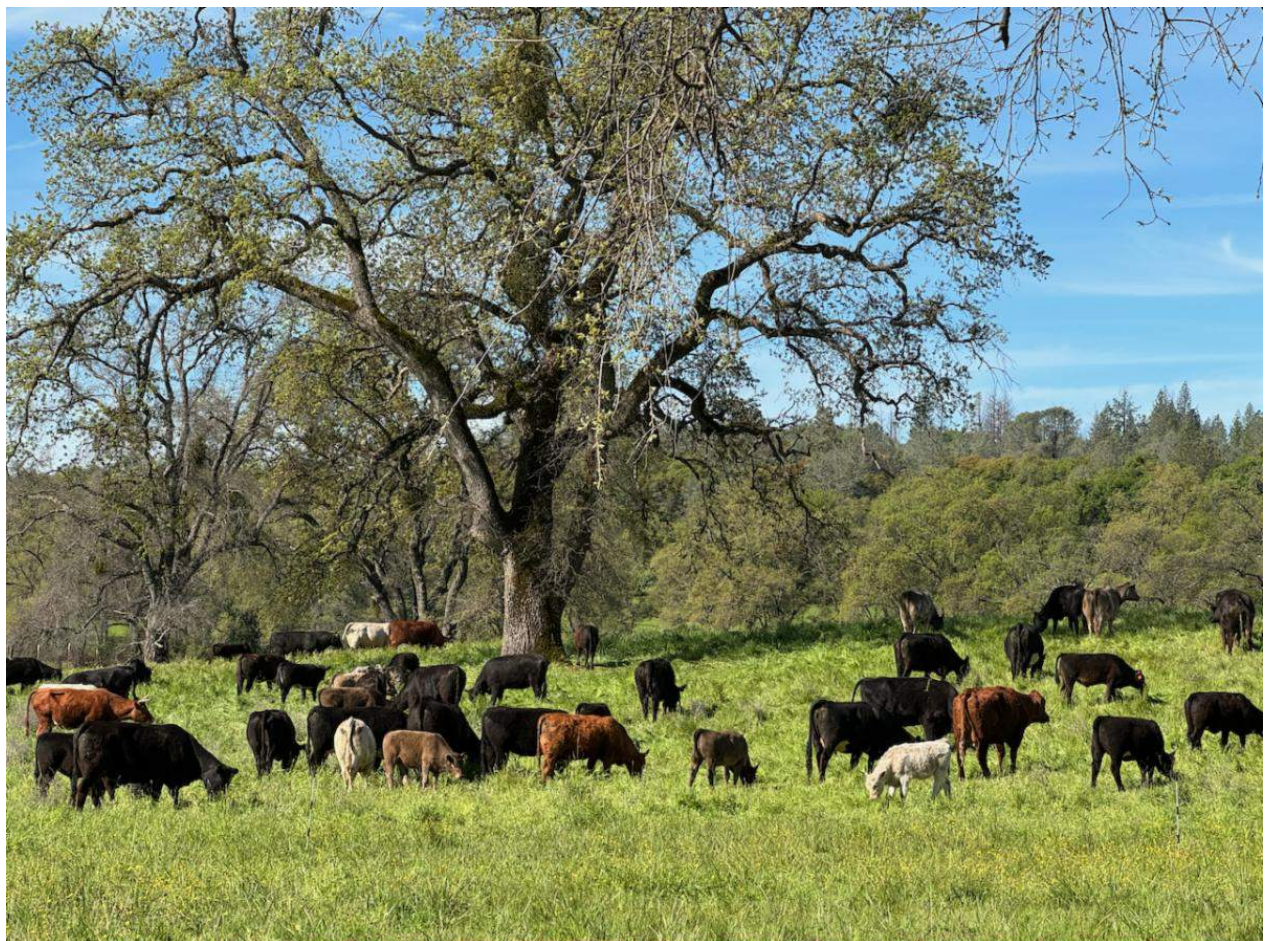
*Andy Naja-Riese from AIM and colleagues at the Capitol steps drawing attention to Market Match.*

*Asm. Damon Connolly delivered an impassioned speech on the many reasons why Market Match should be saved.*





## Farm to School Event at Richards Regenerative Ranch



I got to participate in a fantastic *Farm to School Regenerative Ranch Tour* yesterday at the [Richards Regenerative](#) ranch in Oregon House, California! The Richards siblings Carrie, Noelle and Tom led a group of university, school district and dining services executives along with folks from several food and farming non-profit organizations out into the pasture to show us the many positive impacts of regenerative practices. Surrounded by cattle, Carrie shared the history of the ranch, their transition to



regenerative, related initial challenges and explained the concepts integral to their new approach: soil health, grazing techniques, holistic management, etc. Tom shared some exciting new developments about the emerging science on nutritional benefits of regenerative meat and on making the data transparent for consumers. Be sure to check out their [Story of Regeneration](#) video on their website. *(Image of Richards Regenerative cattle, by Doris Meier)*



*Carrie and Tom Richards speaking to tour participants on the challenges and rewards of regenerative ranching.*



*Lunch and panel discussions about various topics including removing barriers to offering regenerative meat in schools, universities and corporate cafeterias.*

The tour was followed by a delicious regenerative burger lunch and several excellent panel discussions and Q&A sessions. Kudos to [Beef2Institution](#), the organizers of the event, and [Richards Regenerative](#) for this unforgettable and highly informative experience. I'm sure a lot of hearts were not just filled but also changed!

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## Fighting for a Healthy & Resilient Food System in Washington D.C.

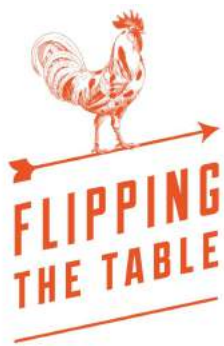
Another fruitful trip to Washington D.C. with colleagues in the fight for a healthy and resilient food system. We were joined by long time ally Maricela Morales co-founder of [CAUSE](#) who met with the Public Health Institute board to share about our collaboration on the [Achieving Resilient Communities](#) project. The board was interested in knowing how to better serve CBOs. Next, we met with staffers from the House offices of Congressmen Carbajal and Cardenas. We also we met with USDA Agricultural Marketing Service leadership to report on our regional regenerative meat work, including Under Secretary Jennifer Lester Moffitt. Our final meeting was with Wholesome Wave policy genius Brent Ling to get his update on Food as Medicine policy progress.



*Silicia Lomax from team Waxman Strategies who represents ROC and PHI in D.C. Here she is between Maricela Morales and Michael Dimock following Congressional staff meetings.*



*Michael Dimock, ROC, Brent Ling, Wholesome Wave, Matthew Marsom, Senior Vice President, PHI.*



## Flipping the Table Podcast

From the Rice Fields of California one Sees the Future of Agriculture

**Tim Johnson**, CEO of the [California Rice Commission](#), shares how rice growers are modeling the future of agriculture by delivering a fabulous array of ecosystem services, wealth creation and delicious, healthy food for California and the world.







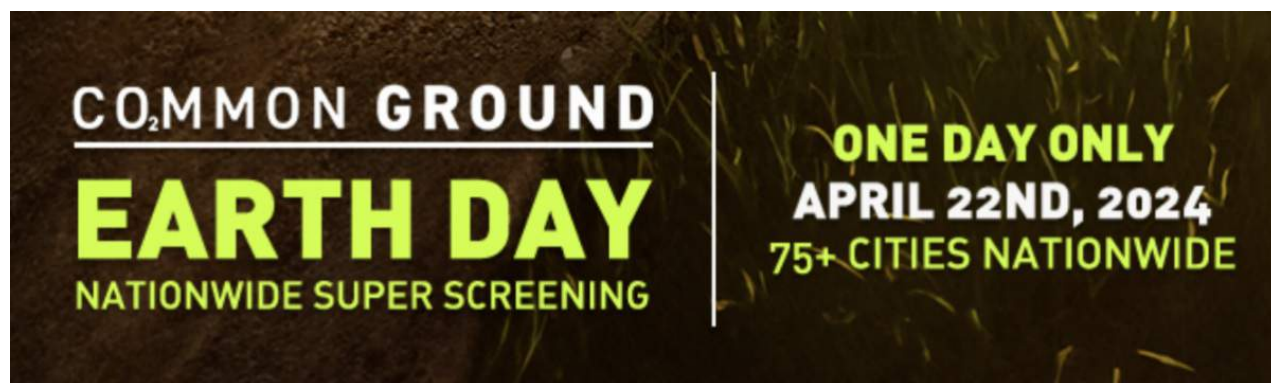
In case you missed it and given the topic of this latest episode with Tim Johnson, we thought you would also be interested in (re-) listening to this conversation with [Dr. Jacob Katz](#), senior scientist for the nonprofit [California Trout](#). He is also part of the [Nigiri Project](#). Their approach has implications for crop and livestock operations across the state and the nation.



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## Common Ground - Special Earth Day Screenings

To commemorate and amplify support for Earth Day, **COMMON GROUND** is being screened nationwide on **Monday, April 22nd, for one night only**. The film is coming to 75+ screens across major markets such as Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and the rest of the US, spreading the crucial message of embracing **regenerative models of agriculture**.



[Get Your Ticket\(s\) Here](#)

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## 35th Annual Bioneers Conference

I had the good fortune of attending my first Bioneers Conference, which took place in Berkeley from March 28 - 30. To give you a little taste of how inspiring it was, here the link to four amazing key note speeches:

[Bioneers Key Note Speeches - Recordings](#)

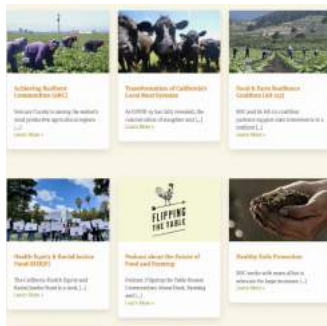


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Doris Meier  
Editor of the PULSE  
Roots of Change

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Roots of Change is a program of the [Public Health Institute](#)



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