



A Fork in the Road in the Movement to Fix the Food System

Dear Doris,

With much at stake in the current turbulent political landscape, ROC begins its critical 2025 policy work. To protect the many gains of the good food movement over the last few decades, we will launch a ***Vote for Your Food Campaign*** while continuing our work to protect the environment, public health, and farmworker rights. Read Executive Director Michael R. Dimock's deep concerns and hopes for a silver lining with the new administration in his current blog post (link below) and stay tuned for updates on our various projects.

In this issue of the PULSE you will find:

- **It's a Perilous Moment: What is to be done? Blog post by Michael R. Dimock**
- **ROC's 2025 Policy Work**
- **Food Champion Award & Scorecard Release: event report**
- **Podcast: Flipping the Table: Helena Bottemiller Evich from Food Fix shares her views on a possible realignment in food politics**
- **Reminder: Bioneers Conference 20% Discount code: Biopartner25**
- **Reminder: Regenerative Meat Platform**

It's a Perilous Moment: What is to be done?

Blog post by Michael R. Dimock, E.D. I worry for our nation and the movement to fix the food system. What will



an administration that favors big corporations, ignores the separation of powers and shows no empathy for the multitude of lives it's impacting cost us? Undocumented workers have been deported and hundreds of thousands more fear the same. What will this do to farms, processing

plants and restaurants? The DOGE wrecking ball is already damaging communities and people working on the food system's frontlines. Roots of Change is working with three USDA grants aiding ranchers and small farmers that may end; it would mean a 30% reduction in our budget and force hard decisions. Over 100 thousand nonprofits in the U.S. face similar peril and some have already folded. This is an unprecedented threat to the good food movement and especially to rural and low income families. It demands a bold response...

[Read More](#)

ROC's 2025 Advocacy Will be Intense

ROC is launching its ***Vote for Your Food*** campaign to defend movement progress. In Washington DC we'll support nutrition incentives, SNAP, grant programs for local food and small farmers, and climate smart agriculture. Given confirmation of RFK Jr. as HHS Secretary, we'll call for more food as medicine funds and elimination of toxic chemicals in our food system. In Sacramento we'll advocate to:

- **Top priority:** enable universities and colleges to buy regional regenerative meat
- Ensure Prop 4 Climate

Bond funds are directed as intended

- Maintain Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund support for sustainable ag programs
- Establish permanent funding for the California Nutrition Incentive Program
- Create more protections for farmworker families from impacts of extreme heat and smoke
- Allow on-farm and ranch composting of deceased mammals.



Help us today with our top priority!

Send letters to three state legislators we have asked to carry our budget request for \$5 million dollars for a new CDFA grant program.

Hit the link to get letter templates and instructions on how to ask legislators to vote for your food. Thank you!

- [Draft email to send with letter](#)
- [Template letter for Assemblymember McNerney](#)
- [Template letter for Assemblymember Ransom](#)
- [Template letter for Assemblymember Rogers](#)

**Food Champion Awards & Scorecard
Release Event on Feb 5th**



Image (from l-r): Katie Ettman (Fullwell), Beth Spitler (CFFN), food & farm policy champions Assemblymember Mia Bonta and Assemblymember Damon Connolly, Jessica Gonzalez (CCOF), Michael R. Dimock (ROC).

This year's Food & Farm Policy Champion & Scorecard release party was another fun and sold out event at our favorite event space in Sacramento, Mulvaney's B&L! Together with almost 100 attendees we celebrated the **2024 champions Assemblymembers Mia Bonta and Damon Connolly** for their leadership and successes in food and farming related policy work. Thank you for your dedication and passion to make critical improvements to the food system! A big shoutout to Patrick Mulvaney for donating the space and appetizers and his staff for always making everyone feel welcome.

2024 Food & Farm Policy Scorecard



Patrick Mulvaney, Jeanne Merrill (Berkeley Food Institute), Virginia Jameson (CDFA).

From l-r: Denisse Becerra, Grecia Marquez-Nieblas and Eli Zigaz (Fullwell) mingling with Sarah Hanson (CDFA) and Zoe Womack (SFPHF).

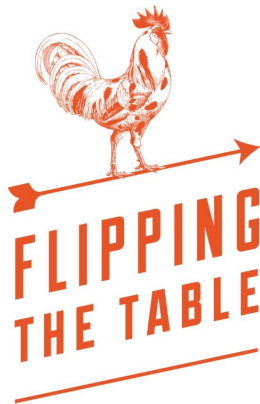


Matthew Marsom, ROC's Policy Advisor, stating his 2025 food policy goal: a budget win for regenerative meat!

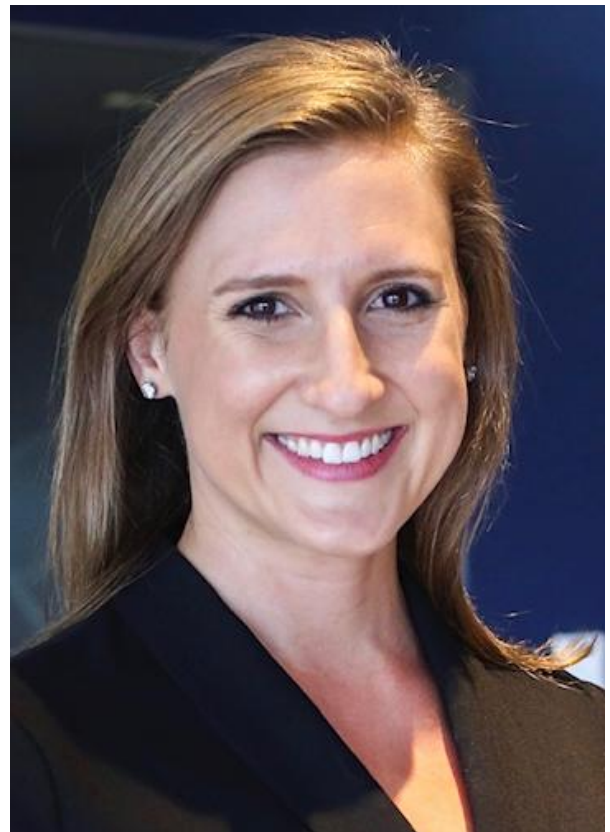


Beth Spitler (CFFN) presenting the annual food & farm scorecard.

Flipping the Table Podcast



Helena Bottemiller Evich from **Food Fix** shares her views on Trump nominees RFK Jr. & Brook Rollins and the striking possibility of realignment around food policy in Washington DC. After 15 years on the federal food and agriculture policy beat, perhaps no other American of her generation has a better perspective on what might or might not happen under the new Administration. RFK Jr and the MAHA movement are having an impact. What could it all mean?



Bioneers Conference 2025



(Reminder) Don't miss BIONEERS, an incredibly important and inspiring conference in Berkeley, March 27 - 29.

The wonderful folks at Bioneers are once again graciously extending a **20% discount code for the ROC community: Biopartner25.**

The Bioneers Conference has always, since its inception 36 years ago, had Food and Farming as one of its core domains of interest, realizing that the **impacts of agriculture on our ecosystems, of the food we consume on our health, and of the dramatically unequal access to food on social inequity, are so immensely consequential** that without radically reshaping our food systems we will never solve some of the key fundamental crises we face: climate unraveling, biodiversity plummeting, hunger still far too prevalent, and epidemic levels of diseases attributable to poor diets and environmental toxicity. [READ MORE](#)

Bioneers 20% discount code: Biopartner25

Regenerative Meat Platform



(Reminder) As part of our **Regenerative Meat project**, we developed a **portal** that features a **list of NorCal regenerative meat brands and butcheries**.

(Please let us know if you know of other brands or butcheries that should be added to the list!) Our ally, the Good Meat Project, also has a very **useful guide** for nationwide options.

We need your help to continue making positive changes in the California Food System - your donation is very much appreciated! Any amount helps us continue to build a healthy, resilient and peaceful future.

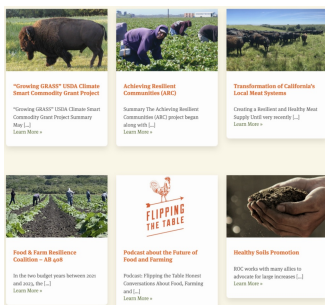
THANK YOU!

DONATE

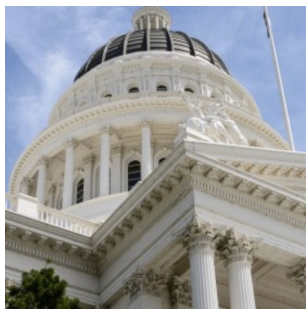
Thank you for your interest and support of our work,

Doris Meier
Editor of the PULSE

Projects



Policy



Podcast



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