



## Salute to Diversity

Greetings!

June is the month to acknowledge and celebrate diversity and a reminder that one of the core principles of regenerative agriculture - a practice that is central to many of our projects and beliefs - is that **diversity lays at the center of all thriving social and ecosystems**. Another one of our initiatives, *Vote for Your Food*, looks at how to find solutions to our national divide through the lens of the food system. The overwhelming majority of farmworkers who harvest our food—often through backbreaking work in oppressive heat and other difficult circumstances—are immigrants who play a crucial role in our food system. Today's ongoing and extreme immigration enforcement and resulting unrest are not only deeply traumatic for those directly affected, but also reflect the deeper divisions tearing at the fabric of our society. This is exactly what we aim to address in our *Vote for Your Food* campaign. As the campaign takes shape, we will continue to share updates. Stay tuned.

In this issue of the PULSE you will find:

- **Blog Post: Here is What we Must do Now**
- **ROC's 2025 Policy Work - Update**
- **Flipping the Table Podcast - with NYT Bestselling Author Michael Grunwald**
- **"Vote for Your Food" Campaign Gatherings Across the State: First Report**
- **RSFI Project: Progress Report**
- **NEW Project: Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP)**
- **Terra Madre Americas, 9/26 - 9/28: ROC's Regenerative Meat Pavilion**
- **Regenerative Meat Purchase Guide**

## Blog Post

By Michael R. Dimock

When the pandemic hit, President

Trump and Congress designated food chain workers from field to table as “essential workers” because despite legal status they ensure people eat. Thus, the ICE raids on farms, factories and restaurants are unjustifiable. The June 1 San Diego raids and community reaction, followed five days later in Los Angeles, sparked a question in me: **what can I do to ensure our food chain workers are afforded due process and not lost to the**



**American food system?** But there was welcome news. The agriculture industry moved President Trump to announce a halt to the raids on farms, restaurants, and processing plants last week. Then I really felt a surge of hope when five million Americans in 2100 communities came out to protect the rule of law on June 14th. But on June 16th, the President reversed course and called for raids again on food chain workers. Answers to my question have come clear: refuse denial, face the discomfort, and show up in several ways. **[READ MORE](#)**

## Policy Update



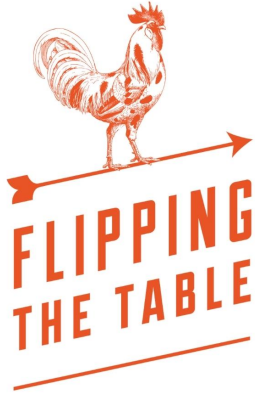
### ROC Joins Legislative Meetings in Support of AB 411

Last week, Roots of Change joined the California Cattlemen’s Association and other co-sponsors of **[AB 411](#)** (Papan) in meetings with legislative offices in the California Senate ahead of the bill’s upcoming hearing before the Senate Agriculture Committee. This follows the bill’s unanimous passage on the Assembly floor with a 79-0 vote. AB 411 is also scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. AB 411 is a critical step forward in lowering costs for California ranchers while advancing the state’s climate goals and furthering ROC’s mission to scale regenerative agricultural practices. We encourage our allies and supporters to voice their support as the bill moves through the Senate in the days ahead. *Image credit: [dcandau](#), [Pixabay](#)*

Here some ***sources for food policy related info*** for our readers to consider:

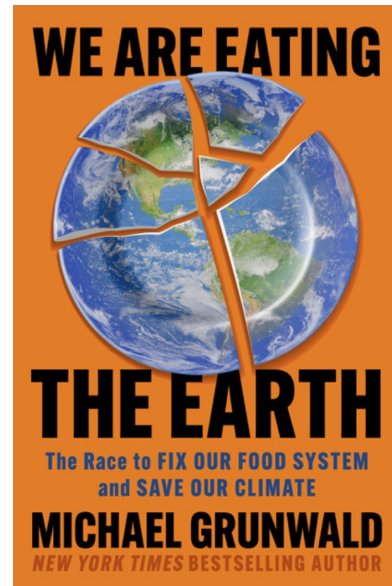
- **Civil Eats: [Food Policy Tracker](#).** Civil Eats is an award-winning news site dedicated to critical thinking about the American food system.
- **[FoodFix](#) by Helena Bottemiller Evich.** Food Fix is an in-depth publication about food policy in Washington and beyond.

# Flipping the Table Podcast



## Season 7, Episode 7

Investigative journalist and author Michael Grunwald's new book ostensibly argues for industrial agriculture, but does it really?



Feeding the world without killing it is very hard to do. Figuring it out is as important as producing energy without fossil fuel. **Author Michael Grunwald** has his views on how and our podcast host has his. Their conversation points the way to end the polarized views on our great challenge. They find common ground among the so-called regenerative, organic, and industrial approaches.

Hear Michael's friendly and enlightening sparring with author Michael Grunwald over his new book **We Are Eating the Earth: The Race to Fix Our Food System and Save Our Climate.**



**Vote for Your Food Campaign - First Gathering in Ojai**

ROC is planning several gatherings around the state to create momentum for our **Vote for Your Food** Campaign. The first gathering took place on June 1st in Ojai. For this campaign **we seek the input of an array of stakeholders to help end the extreme political divide hampering solutions to food system challenges.**



*A few of the attendees of the Ojai event (l-r): Matt Conroy (Good Farms) & Lisa Gritzner (California Strategies), Leslie Leavens (Leavens Ranches), Chloe & Nathan Lurie (Brokaw Ranches), Michael Dimock (ROC), Dr. Arianna Bozzolo (Rodale Institute), Phil McGrath (McGrath Family Farm), John Krist (former CEO Ventura County Farm Bureau), Dylan Boeken & Taysa Porto (Boek House Hearth & Husbandry), Jose Baer (Oso Ag LLC), Corinne Bourdeau (host), and Cindi Dietrich.*

On June 1st, in beautiful Ojai, ROC ally Corinne Bourdeau and husband Andy Koski, hosted an afternoon dialogue and feast with 30 agricultural producers, advocates and interested consumers. We heard common concerns about regulation, consumer indifference, and destructive immigration policy. Whether it's a shepherd using animals to reduce fire risk, a large-scale strawberry operation, a mid-sized organic farm, or a dedicated land steward, they all share a common commitment: caring for the soil, supporting their workers, and continually improving the way we grow our food. We heard the passion of farmers who work the land to feed the nation and a desire to be trusted by the people. **We heard a clear desire to overcome the polarization and a willingness to engage those who may have different perspectives.** We will have additional conversations across the state this year. Stay tuned.



*Leslie Leavens, Jose Baer & Cole Bush (Shepherdess Land & Livestock)*



*(L-r) Chloe & Nathan Lurie, Amalia Lommel (Good Farms) & Marylu Ramirez (Good*



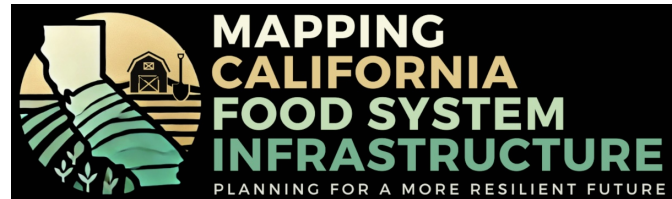
*Lisa Gritzner, Maureen McGuire (CEO Ventura County Farm Bureau), Chloe & Nathan Lurie, Dr. Arianna Bozzolo*



*John Krist, Phil McGrath, Jose Calderon (Reiter Brothers & Driscoll Berries), & Matt Conroy*

## Mapping Resilient Food System Infrastructure Project

Over the last 6 weeks, the ROC team has been traveling throughout California for **CDFA** and its **Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Project**.



This project is focused on mapping the middle of the food supply chain infrastructure that small and mid-size farmers use across the state. The team is identifying existing, planned, and needed infrastructure, such as cold storage, commercial kitchens, freeze drying facilities, and mills, to name a few examples. This project will identify where future funding for the food system infrastructure should be directed. While the first round of data collection is wrapping up, check out our **project page** and **register for our mailing list** to receive updates on how to contribute to the map and vision development. For questions, please reach out to **[coco@rootsofchange.org](mailto:coco@rootsofchange.org)**.

*Image: Attendees at the May 30 Los Angeles meeting.*

# NEW Project: Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP)

ROC and our PHI program partners [Tracking California](#) just launched a new project to protect farmworkers from heat in collaboration with [Central California Environmental Justice Network](#), [UC ANR](#) and the [Terra Bella Union School District](#) in Tulare County. This builds off 5 years of work in Ventura county with [MICOP](#), [CAUSE](#), [Ventura County Farm Bureau](#) and [Ventura County UC Cooperative Extension](#), [Good](#)

[Farms](#) and [Brokaw Ranches](#). That collaboration created new heat illness prevention BMPs for Poly Tunnels and discovered a better way to keep water cool for field workers on high heat days. *Image: Attendees at the Terra Bella kick-off meeting.*



CA Governor's Office of  
**Land Use and  
Climate Innovation**

Our new focus is on creating a resilience hub and cooling center in the farmworker community of Terra Bella using a \$2.5 million grant from the [Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation](#). Our team will be

adding equipment, and educational programming for a new middle school multi-use gym, distributing resilience kits in four Great Valley counties, and working with growers to develop innovative strategies to prevent heat illness, while maintaining high productivity. We are deeply motivated to lower the stress of farmworker families feeling terrorized by ICE raids. We will keep you updated on progress.

## Terra Madre Americas, 9/26 to 9/28



Mark your calendars! [Terra Madre Americas](#) comes to Sacramento this September!

Co-hosted by [Visit Sacramento](#) and [Slow Food](#), this **FREE weekend celebration** features food and drink tastings, live music, celebrity chef demonstrations, educational panels, artisan vendors, and more, bringing the flavors and

traditions of Sacramento, California, and the world together into one unforgettable

experience!

ROC is organizing the **Regenerative Meat Pavilion** in a first-of-its-kind gathering of ranchers, producers, policy leaders, and food system innovators. **Contact us** to find out how you can get involved and/or become a sponsor!



## Purchase Regenerative Meat

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 to be added to the list!) Our ally, the Good Meat Project, also has a very **useful guide** for nationwide options.



## Regenerative Meat Brands & Butcheries

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**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**

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Thank you for your interest and support of our work,

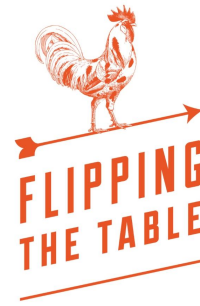
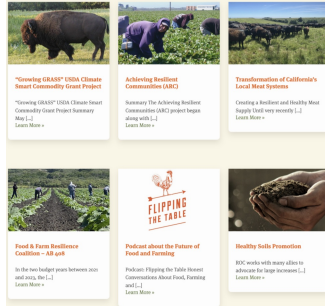
*Doris Meier*  
*Editor of the PULSE*

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**Projects**

**Policy**

**Podcast**



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