



## Power Shift Effects on the Food System

Dear Doris,

Summer is here and hopefully you're getting a break to enjoy some time off!

As we are witnessing troubling shifts in the nation's food and agriculture policy, ROC continues to have many conversations with new and old allies to think of innovative ways to use the food system to address these challenges. The harm done by ICE raids to farmworkers will have mental health, labor supply and economic consequences for workers, farmers and eaters. One way of tackling these repercussions is through our *Vote for your Food* campaign: we are convening food system leaders, ranchers, farmers and producers across the state to find ways to bridge the ideological gap between rural and urban populations, progressives and conservatives – a gap that seems to be fueling the power shifts at the very top. We believe common concerns for workers, the food supply, and the power of food to unite can help foster the cohesion we need for our nation. We will keep you posted on the progress of our *Vote for your Food* campaign as it develops.

In this issue of the PULSE you will find:

- **ROC's 2025 Policy Update**
- **Flipping the Table Podcast: Voices from the Old Salt Festival (Part 1 of 4)**
- **Terra Madre Americas | ROC's Regenerative Meat Pavilion: participation deadline 8/15**
- **Workshops for Community Based Farmers**
- **Opportunities to Build Skills and Success in Food System Work**
- **Regenerative Meat Purchase Guide**

## Policy Update

**Progress in Sacramento, Challenges**



## in Washington

Roots of Change continues to make policy strides in California, even as federal developments threaten progress to build a healthy and resilient food system.

### California Legislative Advances – ROC to Testify in Support of AB 411

Today - Wednesday, July 16 - ROC will join Assemblymember Papin to testify in support of **AB 411** – known as the *Caring About The Terrain, Livestock, and Ecosystems* (C.A.T.T.L.E.) Act – when the legislation is heard before the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. This hearing follows the bill's unanimous (5–0) passage through the Senate Agriculture Committee on July 1. AB 411 would

allow farmers and ranchers to compost livestock mortalities using methods that improve soil health, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support regenerative agriculture in California.

ROC has also signed on in support of **SB 444**, authored by Senate Agriculture Committee Chair **Senator Melissa Hurtado**. The bill would update California's Welfare and Institutions Code to clearly affirm that **every Californian has the right to access sufficient, affordable, and healthy food** that is locally grown and raised—aligning with ROC's long-standing values and vision for a resilient and equitable food system.

### State Budget Maintains Nutrition Commitments

Despite a tough budget year and sharp reductions in federal funding, Governor Newsom signed the **2025–26 California State Budget**, which reflects a continued commitment to fighting hunger and advancing food equity. Among other priorities that support nutrition access for vulnerable communities, key investments include a **one-time \$60 million allocation for CalFood** to support the purchase of California-grown and produced food by California food banks, maintaining **School Meals for All with an additional \$90.7 million**, and **\$36 million to restart the CalFresh Fruit & Vegetable EBT Program**.

### Federal Setbacks for Nutrition and Health

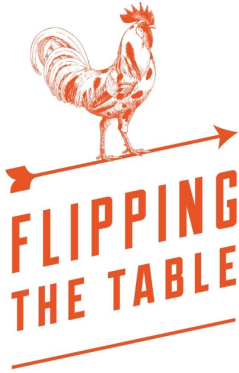
In stark contrast to the progress in California, President Trump signed **HR 1** into law on **July 4**, slashing funding for key federal nutrition and healthcare programs – including the complete elimination of funding for SNAP-nutrition education – and investments to address the climate crisis. These cuts pose a serious threat to millions of low-income families, including those relying on SNAP and Medicaid.

ROC will continue to track and respond to these developments and work with our partners across the state and nation to defend a just, resilient food system.

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

### Voices from the OLD SALT FESTIVAL

#### Part 1: The Rich Diversity of Products & Services from Regenerative Ranches

**Part 1 of 4** features Cate Havstad-Casad, founder of Range Revolution, the heirloom quality leather goods company, Sheldon Atwood, CEO of Western Ranchlands Corporation and Taylor Ophus, land steward at Mannix Ranch. They were three of the inspiring attendees of the 2025 Old Salt Festival in Montana, a June gathering of nearly 3000 ranchers, artisans, chefs, advocates and musicians dedicated to promoting land stewardship, regional food, rural communities and regenerative ranching.



Cate Havstad-Casad,  
Range Revolution

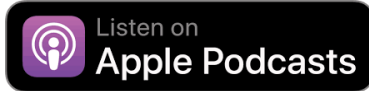


Sheldon Atwood, Western  
Ranchlands Corporation



Taylor Ophus, Mannix  
Ranch





In case you missed our special report blast a couple of weeks ago, below the link again to some impressions from the **OLD SALT FESTIVAL** the ROC team attended in June.

## Photos & Video Clips from OLD SALT FESTIVAL

## Terra Madre Americas, Sacramento



### Mark your calendars:

September 26-28 - **Terra Madre Americas** comes to Sacramento!

ROC is organizing the **Regenerative Meat Pavilion** in a first-of-its-kind gathering of ranchers, producers, policy leaders, and food system innovators.

Visit  
S A C R ★ M E N T O

  
Slow Food®

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!

**Contact us to find out how you can get involved and/or become a sponsor! (Deadline 8/15)**

# Workshops for Community Based Farmers

*Sharing this opportunity from our friends at FARMpreneurs*

## Applications are Open for our Strategic Sprints in Early 2026!

The FARMpreneurs Strategic Sprint is a week-long, off-the-farm workshop experience for community based farmers.

Throughout the week, farmers develop a BIG HAIRY AUDACIOUS GOAL, grow their entrepreneurial and leadership skills, and unlock their abilities to realize their goals while becoming food systems change-makers.

This work is not meant to be done alone. FARMpreneurs is honored to collaborate with their host partners to deliver this work to over 100 farmers in 2026.

This program is **free to farmers** thanks to generous support! [Click here to apply.](#)



## Opportunities to Build Skills and Success in Food System Work

*Sharing this opportunity from our friends at CSU Chico*

Applications for CSU Chico's Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Food Systems TAP training are open, with scholarship applications due July 25th.

Scholarship Applications are now live for the 2024-2025 **CRARS** TAP Professional Course Series! **Applicants have the opportunity to receive full scholarships to complete this course.**

Many TAPs have completed this

Scholarships Are Available for Our Next Technical Assistance Provider Certification Program

Apply by July 25, 2025  
<https://bit.ly/3SJrKKd>

You need to be approved BEFORE you register for classes.

Classes begin September 2025.

Find Your Career in Regenerative Agriculture



California State University Chico  
Center for Regenerative  
Agriculture and  
Resilient Systems



<<< Learn about the Technical Assistance  
Provider Certification Program

Apply for a scholarship >>>



training and have received valuable experience in regenerative Ag, Soil Health, and Carbon Farming.

**Find more information and apply with this link!** The deadline for the TAP scholarship is July 25th, 2025.

Successful candidates will be notified by August 8th, 2025 of scholarship awards. The deadline for registering for course #1 is August 22nd, 2025.

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



## Regenerative Meat Brands & Butcheries

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!

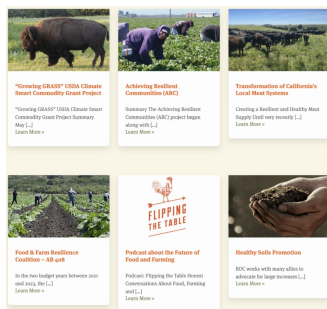
DONATE

Thank you for your interest and support of our work,

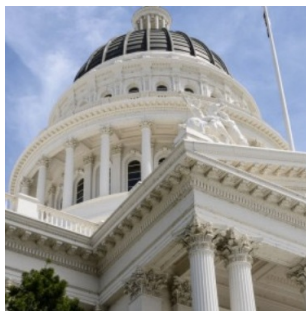
*Doris Meier*

*Editor of the PULSERoots of Change*

## Projects



## Policy



## Podcast



**Roots of Change**

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