

PULSE
OF THE FOOD MOVEMENT

Powered by Community

Greetings!

It's been a very event focused few weeks for the ROC team. Convening with our partners and being part of the good food movement is at the heart of ROC's mission after all! We are very grateful for any opportunity to connect with folks in the real world as these meetings often fuel our inspirations for driving meaningful change in the food system. See below our policy update and reports from our attendance at EcoFarm and our annual Food Champion and Scorecard Release Ceremony.

In this issue of the PULSE you will find:

- **Policy Update and Farm Bill Statement**
- **Food Champion Awards & Scorecard Release event**
- **EcoFarm: Senator Schiff visit and ROC sessions**
- **Latest Flipping the Table Podcast**
- **Bioneers Conference - 20% discount**
- **Regenerative Meat Purchasing Guide**

Policy Update



California Legislative Deadline & AB 1857

Friday **February 20** is the deadline for new legislation to be introduced in Sacramento. ROC is tracking bills as they drop to shape our 2026 legislative agenda focusing on policies that strengthen California's agriculture and food system.

ROC has joined our California Food and Farming Network (CFFN) allies to support **AB 1857** (Asm. Aguiar-Curry, D-Winters), which would curb "restrictive covenants" that can block a new grocery store from opening at a former store site long after a chain closes. By prohibiting these

restrictions, AB 1857 would help expand equitable food access and improve affordability. [Sign up for updates.](#)

Farm Bill Mark Up Scheduled: House Bill Heads the Wrong Direction

The House Agriculture Committee is set to begin a markup (debate and amend) of **H.R. 7567, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026** on **Monday, February 23 at 1:00 p.m. ET**. You can access the full bill text [here](#) and title summaries [here](#). To view Monday's simulcast use [this link](#).

You can read our statement of concerns with the bill [here](#). We'll be monitoring the committee debate and will share updates as the process unfolds. To learn more, please read the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition's take on H.R. 7567 [here](#).

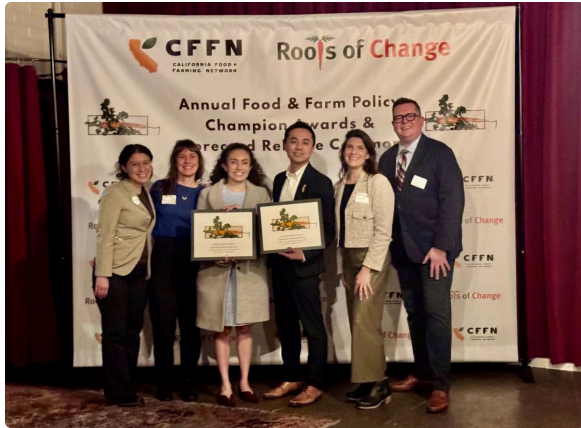


2025 Food & Farm Policy Champion Award Ceremony

Thank you to everyone who attended the Food Policy Champion & Scorecard Release Ceremony at [Mulvaney's B&L](#) in Sacramento! This 11th event was our largest and most animated so far!



We honored and celebrated the **2025 food & farm policy champions: Senator Sasha Renée Pérez** (c) and **Asm. Alex Lee** (2nd from l) for voting most in alignment with our coalition of 50+ organizations' values on food and farm related issues. Also joining the celebration were former champions Asm. Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (r), Asm. Lori D. Wilson (2nd from r), and Asm. Damon Connolly (l).



The 2025 champions (c) with the CFFN team (from l) Angelica Sanabria, Beth Spitler, Beth Smoker, and ROC's Matthew Marsom.



Beth Smoker, CFFN, presenting the 2025 Food & Farm scorecard.

Beth Smoker (CFFN) presented the annual legislative scorecard that tracks the voting records of California state legislators on key food and farming policies. Have a look below. A big shoutout to Patrick Mulvaney, and his wonderful staff, for once again donating delicious appetizers and the event space!

Food & Farm Legislative Scorecard

ROC at EcoFarm

EcoFarm links farmers, ranchers, and consumers to create a more resilient and just food system and provides an excellent opportunity to learn from and enjoy the many benefits of this community!

This year ROC was proud to help organize the visit of U.S. **Senator Adam Schiff** to **EcoFarm 2026** and cohost the Senator's roundtable with farmers and advocates. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator Schiff shared his agricultural priorities, including small and mid-sized farmers, and the need for policies that work for producers on the ground.

In addition, ROC hosted a community mixer and two discussion sessions, one in connection to our **Resilient Food System Mapping (RFSM) project**, the other for our **Vote for Your Food Campaign**.



ROC's community mixer in an idyllic setting on the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove.



Jennifer Lester Moffitt (r), Former USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, joined our mixer along with Sarah Hanson from CDFA (c) and Doris Meier (l), ROC.



Coco Sanabria from the ROC team along with Sarah Hanson from CDFA presenting on our RFSI mapping project.

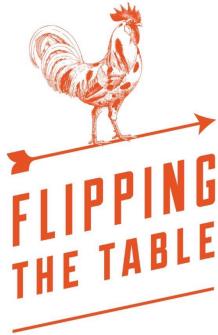


Matthew Marsom, ROC's policy advisor, introducing our Vote for Your Food Campaign during a listening session.



Matthew Marsom with Senator Schiff.

Flipping the Table Podcast



Land Core - Aria McLauchlan and Harley Cross of Land Core Protect Our Soil

It is rare for business-oriented folks to commit their lives to policy work. But the cofounders of Land Core do just that. **They understood how federal farm policy needed to change in order to create healthy and resilient agriculture.** They are creating tools and farm bill programs that offer a brighter future by weaving bipartisan support for good soil policy.

*Click below to hear this inspiring and informative conversation.
(Please note, there may be a **temporary issue** accessing this episode on **Apple Podcast.**)*



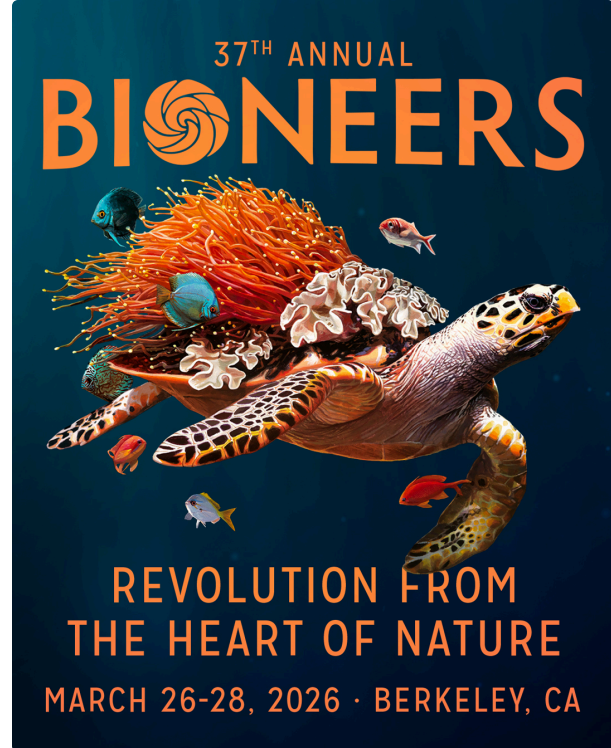
Bioneers Conference - 20% Discount for ROC Community

For 37 years, the Bioneers Conference has led conversations around **Food Justice issues and cutting-edge organic/regenerative farming practices, delving into the impacts of agriculture on our ecosystems and the role food has on our health.** Every year they highlight a few leading food visionaries as well as cutting-edge food-related projects.

This year's exciting programming line-up includes keynote talks by renowned visionary leaders, an urban agriculture tour of the East Bay, a post-conference one day Permacultural Landscaping workshop, several panel discussions with food luminaries,

a few special events, and more!

Here the [daily schedule](#) and registration link for the [Restorative Food Systems programming](#). For tickets use the link below.



**Bioneers Tickets - Use ROC Community 20%
Discount Code: 360b20**

Regenerative Meat Purchase Guide

As part of our Regenerative Meat project, we developed a [portal](#) that features a list of [NorCal regenerative meat brands and butcheries](#). Please add your brand/butchery via [this link](#) if you're not already on the list, and please share with us if you know of other brands/butcherries that should be added to the list. Our ally, the Good Meat Project, also has a very useful guide for [nationwide options](#).



Directory: Regenerative Meat Brands & Butcheries

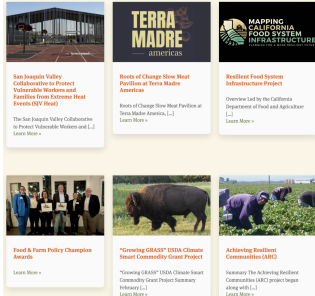
**We need your help to continue making positive changes in the California Food System - your donation is very much appreciated!
Any amount helps us continue to build a healthy, resilient and peaceful future. THANK YOU!**

DONATE

Thank you for your support of our work!

Doris Meier
Editor of the PULSE
Roots of Change

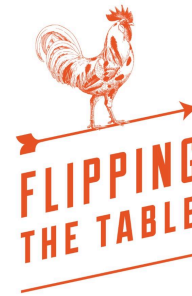
Projects



Policy



Podcast



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