



Project Updates, Events & Senator Schiff's Farm Bill Priorities

Greetings!

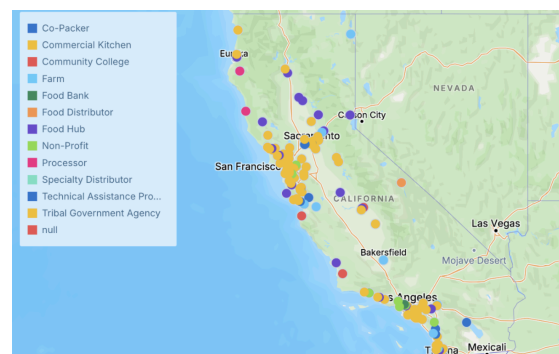
Thank you for being a loyal PULSE of the Food Movement newsletter reader! We aim to keep you abreast of the latest and most important food system related topics, grant opportunities, events, and updates on our projects and policy work. In this month's PULSE you will find:

- **RSFI Project Update**
- **SJV Heat Project Update**
- **Latest Flipping the Table Podcast with Marion Nestle**
- **Michael Dimock's Blog Post: What Five Days in the South of Our Nation Brought to Mind**
- **Policy Update: Senator Schiff's Farm Bill Priorities and ROC Priority Bills**
- **Every Cut Matters - Ranch Dinner Event**
- **Old Salt Festival: Get your FREE Ticket! (*Last call*)**

RFSI Project Update

Resilient Food System Infrastructure Mapping Project (RFSI)

First Iteration of the [MAP](#) is Live!



ROC, Fresh Approach, and CDFA are collecting food infrastructure data across California to develop a map of existing facilities and infrastructure needs to support small and mid-sized producers in accessing the middle of the supply chain. [This project](#) will inform where future investment in food system infrastructure should be directed. This month, we traveled to San Diego, Eureka, and Chico to dig into regional

infrastructure needs. We will be in Fresno in June, in collaboration with the F3 Initiative – please stay tuned!

The first iteration of the [MAP](#) is now available for viewing and feedback. We are collecting and adding data points daily. **If you know of processing, distribution, or aggregation infrastructure that serves small and mid-size producers that is not represented on the map, please fill out this 5-minute [SURVEY](#) on existing infrastructure.** Our teams will be doing phone and email outreach over the next month – help us by picking up the phone or completing the survey in advance!

If you'd like to be more involved in the feedback process, we are also soliciting a 20-minute survey that goes deeper into [financing and infrastructure needs](#). Producers who complete both surveys will receive a \$50 stipend!

SJV Heat Project Update



The [San Joaquin Valley Extreme Heat project](#) is approaching the completion of its first of three years. This month, [CCEJN](#) and ROC attended the grand opening of the Carl Smith Middle School gymnasium in Terra Bella, which is being retrofitted to serve as a community resilience hub and cooling center. The opening celebration included dancing from the ballet folklorico

students and a ribbon-cutting by the school board. Families across the community will benefit from the temperature-controlled space. ROC and [Tracking California](#) are working directly with the school and community to decide on educational, engaging, and entertaining programming for the space.

We're also excited to share an opportunity that may be of interest to your organization or partners engaged in resilience hub and cooling center work. The [SJV Heat](#) initiative is launching a Resilience Hub Learning Community for organizations that are planning, implementing, or operating resilience hubs or cooling centers.

We invite you to join a learning community of organizations, local agencies, and individuals involved in planning, implementing, or operating resilience hubs and cooling centers. The learning community sessions will be hosted quarterly on Wednesdays from June 2026 - March 2027 from 12:00-2:00pm. See details below.



Resilience Hub Learning Community

Join organizations across California to share ideas, successes, and challenges in planning, implementing, and operating resilience hubs and cooling centers.

Who Should Participate & What to Expect:

- Organizations currently planning, implementing, or operating a resilience hub or cooling center (whether you have funding or you are seeking support)
- Engage in interactive sessions with peer discussion, problem-solving, and brief presentations
- Share experiences, exchange practical lessons, and explore emerging solutions
- Help shape session topics and activities based on your needs and interests

When: Wednesdays, 12:00 – 2:00 PM (quarterly)

Jun 3, 2026	Session 1: Hubs in Action - What Are People Building?
Sept 2, 2026	Session 2: Programming That Lasts
Dec 2, 2026	Session 3: Fundraising & Sustainability
Mar 3, 2027	Session 4: Operations, Partnerships & Power
Date TBD	Site Visit at Terra Bella Resilience Hub

[Learn More & Register Here](#)

Flipping the Table Podcast

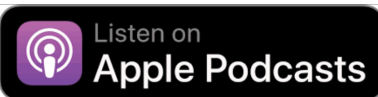


**A timely conversation with Dr. Marion Nestle -
our nation's food politics pioneer and
God Mother of Food Studies**

Dr. Marion Nestle's 2002 book, [Food Politics](#) was instrumental in awakening the nation to the disfunction in America's food policy and its food system. She reflects on her path to food policy and shares her thinking about what she sees is important today

for those seeking change.

Image credit: Zara Surti



Michael Dimock's Blog Post: What Five Days in the South Brought to Mind



America is blessed with immense beauty and diversity of people, climate, and richly endowed lands. I experienced some of the best of it recently in Georgia and Kentucky where food system innovators are hard at work rebuilding agrarian communities, the bedrock of civilization whether we recognize it or not. I want to share what I pondered and learned about these good people and places in five short days.

[READ MORE](#)

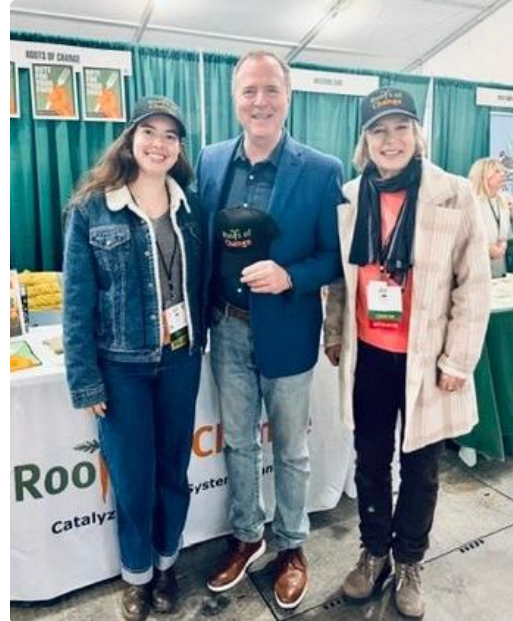
Policy Update

ROC Welcomes Senator Schiff's Farm Bill Priorities

Roots of Change is excited to welcome Senator Adam Schiff's newly released Farm Bill priorities, [Grown in the Golden State](#). The priorities lift up many of the issues ROC has long championed: strong nutrition programs, healthy food incentives, local and regional food systems, fair markets for farmers, protection for farmworkers, support for specialty crops, and sustainable agriculture, and California's leadership on standards like Proposition 12.

As California's first member of the Senate Agriculture Committee in more than 30 years, Senator Schiff is bringing overdue attention to the food and farm priorities that

matter deeply to our state and to the nation. ROC has appreciated the opportunity to engage with the Senator's office as these priorities have taken shape, and we look forward to continuing to work with his team and partners across California to advance a Farm Bill rooted in good, clean and fair food for all.



ROC Priority Bills Clear Key Assembly Committee

Two ROC priority bills cleared an important hurdle this week, passing out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee and now heading to the Assembly floor. [AB 1857 \(Aguiar-Curry\)](#) would help protect grocery access by addressing restrictive property covenants that can prevent new grocery stores or supermarkets from opening in communities that need them. [AB 1731 \(Wilson\)](#) would create the California Healthy Food Procurement Fund Program to help schools purchase healthy, California-grown foods produced through climate-smart practices. Their advancement marks a key step forward for ROC priorities, including healthier food

access, stronger regional food systems, fairer markets, and greater resilience for California farmers, students, families, and communities.

Every Cut Matters - Ranch Dinner Event

Join Us at Richards Ranch!

ROC team members will be participating at the **EVERY CUT MATTERS** fundraiser event at [Richards Ranch](#) in Oregon House, CA, on **May 30, 2026**.



Every Cut Matters is built around a simple principle: honoring the entire animal. This is a working table—not a gala—designed for people who want to engage more thoughtfully with how meat is raised, processed, and valued. Click [here](#) for more information about the event. Proceeds support [Good Meat Project](#)'s work strengthening education and collaboration across the regenerative meat economy.

Ranch Dinner Event - Ticket

As part of our previous Regenerative Meat project, we developed a [portal](#) that features a list of [regenerative meat brands and butcheries](#). Among many others you will find **Richards Regenerative** on this list.

Old Salt Festival - FREE Tickets for the ROC Community!

Last Call! Join the ROC team under the big Montana sky at the [Old Salt Festival](#) in Helmville, MT, June 19 - 21, 2026, and **secure your free festival ticket(s).**

ROC's sponsorship of the event allows us to give away free tickets to our ROC community. Email us at the link below to secure your ticket!

We had such fantastic and productive time at this amazing festival last year that we've decided to return. See our [photos from last year's event](#).



The festival focus is on land stewardship and community featuring open-fire, locally sourced meals, live music, and lots of educational talks on regenerative agriculture. Here the [link to the festival program](#).

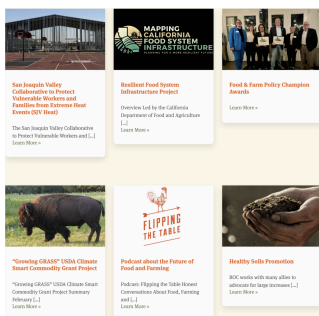
Claim Your FREE Ticket to Old Salt Festival

**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!**

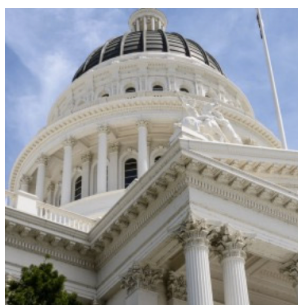
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Thank you for your support of our work!

Projects



Policy



Podcast



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