



The Importance of Resilient Regional Food Systems

Greetings!

We cannot stop thinking about resilience in this summer of food poisoning from imported industrial system lettuce, extreme heat and fires, and a growing farm crisis that moved a bipartisan group of 45 former USDA officials to **call for action** to address the future of American agriculture. Those developments are in contrast to what we experienced in Montana in June at the **Old Salt Festival** where the future of agriculture was crystal clear and inspiring. Below



we shares some of what we heard at Old Salt and what you can see through the new film Groundswell. And progress in California's policy realm continues to point to a brighter food future. This summer's developments convince us more than ever that regional food systems will be a very large part of America's future.

Image: Old Salt Festival, "Eat Like a Human" conversation with Dr. Bill Schindler

In this PULSE you will find:

- **Policy Update: State Budget Wins**
- **Flipping the Table Podcast**: Voices from the Old Salt Festival, ep 1-3
- New regenerative agriculture/food film: **Groundswell**
- **Save the Date: REAL Food LA, Saturday, November 14, 2026**
- **Regenerative Meat Purchase Guide**

Policy Update

State Budget Wins for Food Systems During Challenging Times



We're pleased to share some very good news from Sacramento. California's recently finalized 2026–27 state budget includes two important investments that will help families access healthy food while supporting California farmers and strengthening regional food systems:

\$15 million for the California Nutrition Incentive Program (CNIP), which funds Market Match, helping to stretch CalFresh benefits at farmers markets and other participating sites while increasing sales for local farmers.

\$15 million for the Local Food Purchase Assistance Program (LFPA), known in California as Farms Together, which connects California producers with food banks, tribal partners, and community organizations serving families facing food insecurity.

The budget also includes a welcome \$20 million investment in the CalFresh

Fruit and Vegetable EBT Program, helping CalFresh households extend their benefits when purchasing fruits and vegetables at participating retailers.

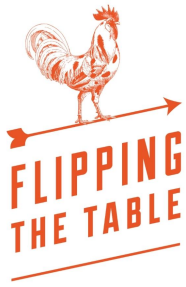
These investments are a significant victory, particularly in a difficult budget year, and reflect the sustained advocacy of farmers, food-access organizations, community partners, and ROC allies throughout California. Roots of Change is grateful to everyone who raised their voice in support of these essential programs.

Image credit: Brie Mazurek, Foodwise

Flipping the Table Podcast

Voices from the Old Salt Festival: Building Stronger Regional Food Systems

Our new six-part podcast series brings you the stories and wisdom from ranchers, capital providers, business managers, and food system leaders who are reshaping the future of food and farming. **The first three episodes explore how collaboration is creating new market opportunities for small farmers, why innovative approaches**



to capital are accelerating regenerative agriculture sector expansion, and how two Montana women are redefining ranching partnership through an innovative grass-fed model. Together, these conversations offer practical ideas and innovative solutions directly from the people building healthier, more resilient regional food systems across America.



 Episodes 1–3 are available now!



REAL Food LA

Save the Date: Saturday, November 14

We are excited to announce that **Audubon Conservation Ranching** has joined us as co-host for the **REAL Food LA** event which will take place on **Saturday, November 14, 2026** at **Los Angeles Trade-Technical College** in the heart of LA. Save the date!

REAL Food LA

Roots of Change

A Celebration of Healthy Meat, Grains, and Seafood, Regional Regenerative Sources, and Women's Culinary Leadership

Los Angeles Trade-Technical College
Saturday, November 14, 2026

Co-hosted by Audubon
Conservation Ranching



The event will be similar in format to our Slow Meat Pavilion at Terra Madre Americas bringing **regenerative foods and products to life through storytelling, education, and community**. The event will feature

- live cooking, butchery and outdoor live-fire cooking demos;
- delicious food tastings;
- tasting tables featuring regenerative meat and grains;
- marketplace featuring producers of regenerative meat, grains and other foods; culinary tools, beauty and health products;
- educational panels, live podcasts and conversations on regenerative agriculture and sustainable seafood.

We would love to see you there! Please **email us** if you are interested in setting up a Zoom call to get more information on how to secure a vendor table and/or become a sponsor.

Groundswell Film

The third film – **Groundswell** – in the documentary trilogy by filmmakers Rebecca Harrell Tickell and Josh Tickell is available on Amazon Prime as are the previous two films **Kiss the Ground** and **Common Ground**.



Groundswell Film shares a breathtaking journey across five continents showing a global movement of practical and proven regenerative farming practices that build living soil, store vast amounts of carbon, eliminate harmful inputs, and produce healthier, more nutrient-dense food. And it's quietly reversing three interconnected crises facing us all: climate change, species extinction, and soil loss. **Check out the trailer [here](#).**



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

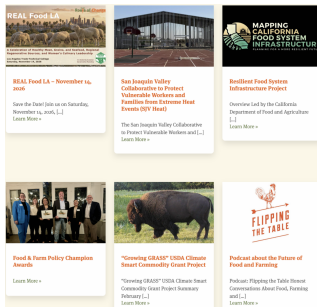
Regenerative Meat Purchase Guide

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!

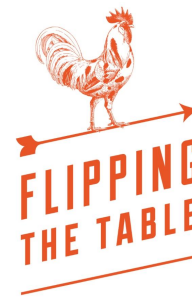
Projects



Policy



Podcast



 **Roots of Change**

A program of the [Public Health Institute](#)



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