



A Historically Crucial Moment

Greetings!

It is time to speak up.

We are very concerned by the current farm crisis rocking the nation. Food borne illness, SNAP cuts, high food prices, low prices to farms, but high debt and costs for fuel and fertilizer are killing family farms at alarming rates. On top of all that, drought and extreme weather are undermining crop and livestock production yields. See [our blog](#) and send its description of sound agriculture policy to your **elected representatives**. And see below to receive some good news. There are many in agriculture doing good things for our common future. As the fall harvest season approaches, take heart and keep the faith in our nation's future. **READ FULL BLOG POST.**

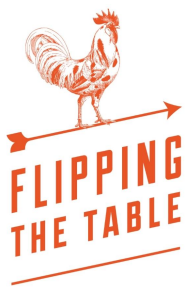


Image: Rally in front of the state capitol in Sacramento.

In this PULSE you will find:

- **Michael Dimock's Blog Post "A Time of Crisis Is a Time to Speak Up"**
- **Flipping the Table Podcast: Voices from the Old Salt Festival, ep 4 – 6**
- **CDFA Specialty Crop Block Grant Funding: ROC's Perspective – Remarks by Michael Dimock Before the CA State Board of Food and Agriculture**
- **CDFA Specialty Crop Block Grant Funding - 2027 Applications Open**
- **REAL Food LA - Update | Postponed to 2028**
- **FARMpreneur Grant, application deadline 9/7**
- **Regenerative Meat Purchase Guide**

Flipping the Table Podcast



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

**That's a Wrap! Listen to the Second Set of Conversations
from the 2026 Old Salt Festival Podcast Series**

We just released the final episode of our six-part podcast series featuring ranchers, capital providers, business leaders, and food system advocates working to reshape the future of food and farming. In the final three episodes, **explore the heart of rural America** we don't often get to see; **meet Mary Berry, who is turning her family's agrarian legacy into action**; and hear from a **Canadian ranching family that puts land stewardship first**—and built a successful grass-fed cattle operation around it. Enjoy the series, and we hope you'll join us at the Old Salt Festival in Montana's beautiful Blackfoot River Valley next year!



 **Old Salt Festival, ep 4–6 are available now!**

P4: The Heart of Rural America We Don't See.

P5: You Know Wendell Berry. You Should Know Mary Berry.

P6: Land Stewards First. Ranchers Second.



**CDFA Specialty Crop Block Grant
Funding: ROC's Perspective**



On August 4, 2026, Roots of Change Executive Director Michael Dimock delivered remarks to the California State Board of Food and Agriculture on priorities for the next round of Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding.

He outlined six recommendations to advance climate resilience, protect farmworkers, improve soil health and food safety, strengthen regional processing infrastructure, and expand markets for small and mid-scale specialty crop producers.

Read Michael's full remarks on the [ROC blog](#).

CDFA Specialty Crop Block Grant Funding - 2027 Applications Open

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) conducts an annual competitive solicitation process to award Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funds to projects that enhance the competitiveness of California specialty crops. Specialty crops are fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture). For a list of eligible and ineligible commodities, visit the [U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service](#) website.



For more information on the 2027 grant application process [click here](#).

REAL Food LA - Update Postponed to 2028



Due to a tragedy affecting the planning of REAL Food LA we must postpone the event. Watch for updates on future plans.

Consequently, we are pivoting to organize a rancher **listening session** in the **San Diego area** in **early 2027**. Watch for more information.

We are also starting to plan the **TERRA MADRE AMERICAS 2027** event in Sacramento. **Save the dates: September 24 - 26, 2027!** We hope to see you there next year!

FARMpreneurs Grant

Applications for Winter 2027 Programs Are Open!

The FARMpreneurs Strategic Sprint

is a week-long, in-person executive education workshop for regenerative farmers. The workshop guides participants through a demanding and innovative curriculum developed from decades of experience designing and delivering food systems entrepreneurship courses in leading MBA programs. **The program is tuition free and covers all room and board for selected participants.**



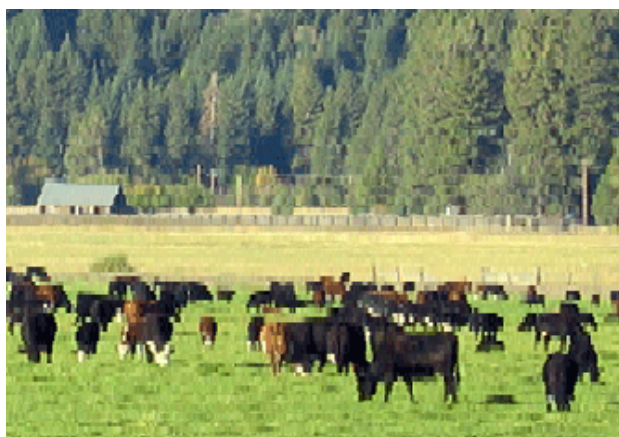
Winter 2027 Sprints - California location:

Art Farm at West Dry Creek — Healdsburg, CA | January 10–16

The application deadline has been extended by one week to 9/7.

FARMpreneurs Grant: Apply by 9/7

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**.

Regenerative Meat Purchase Guide

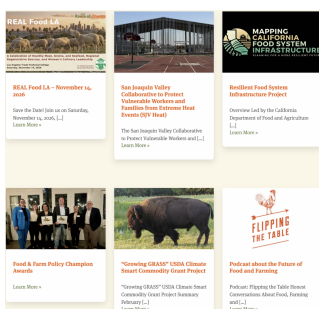
We need your help to continue making positive changes in the California Food System - your donation is very much appreciated!
Any amount helps us continue to build a healthy, resilient and peaceful future. THANK YOU!

DONATE

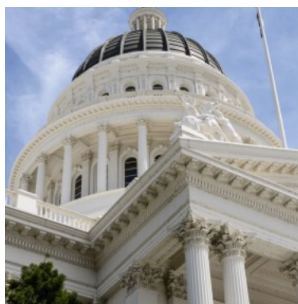
Thank you for your support of our work!

Doris Meier
Editor of the PULSE
Roots of Change

Projects



Policy



Podcast



Roots of Change

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



Roots of Change | 1950 Franklin Street Suite 600 | Oakland, CA 94612 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!