

PULSE

OF THE FOOD MOVEMENT

A Great Time to Give Thanks

Greetings!

Millions of people around the planet are birthing a world in which empathy guides human behavior and we live in harmony with nature. This is particularly true in the realm of food and farming. There is a better world ahead if we work together. We share some examples below that may help you, as they have us, to feel gratitude in our challenging time.



(Image credit: Michi Nordlicht)

Please support Our Work



ROC needs \$100,000 to support our three policy goals in 2020. [Please make a contribution.](#)

First, your generosity will allow us to continue organizing and advocating to tax sugary beverages in order to fund healthy food access programs, regional food system development and other programs defined and implemented by communities.

Second, we will continue to seek a policy to aid farmers and ranchers who work with nature rather than against her, but who are dying for lack of meat processing facilities.

Finally, we will continue to work with our growing network of allies to defend and expand the climate smart agriculture programs that may be lost in the future because California's greenhouse gas reduction fund will soon be swallowed up by the General Fund, meaning likely raided for other purposes. It will take a large army to protect that

money. With your help we intend to be in that struggle. Your contributions make success possible in these long-term and game-changing policy campaigns. Thank you! *Image credit:*

Gabriel Jimenez

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Reflections on the Times by Michael R. Dimock

I am back in California after three weeks on the road. I traveled to southern Baja in Mexico to rest with three friends, then to New York and Connecticut to record eight podcasts for season two of [Flipping the Table](#). In each place, I engaged in conversations about the present and future, the planet, politics, climate, economy, food and agriculture. I was with friends and strangers. Sometimes it was one-on-one, often in small groups. In all these contexts, whether formal or informal, I was struck by the beauty of people and the natural world. They gave me hope, increased my devotion, honed my work and filled me with gratitude at this trying moment. [READ MORE](#)

Recent "Flipping the Table" Podcasts



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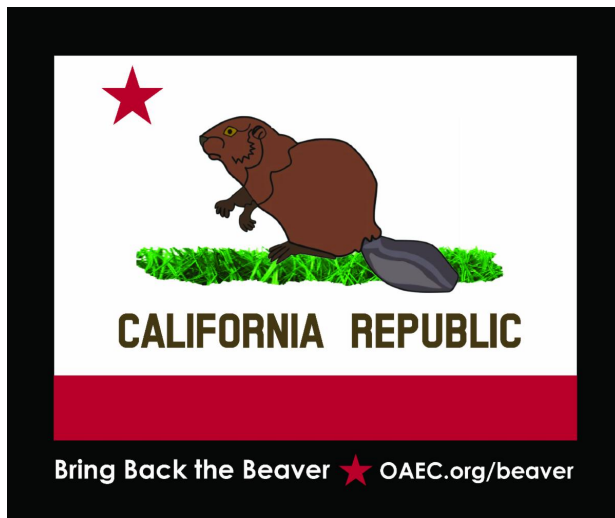
UC Davis Agricultural Sustainability Institute Engaging Farmers, Advocates and Climate-Related Scientists in Dialogues to Improve our Future

Ten years ago, ROC sponsored nine dialogues around the state with leaders from agriculture. We invited Dr. Tom Tomich director of the [UC Davis Agricultural](#)

[Sustainability Institute](#) (ASI) to join us to bring science into the conversations. Regulations, water and labor were the big issues of that time. This year ASI engaged ROC to facilitate a similar process for them. Here is a [blog post](#) from the ASI team about this exciting effort that will continue through 2020. Our collaborative work will generate valuable recommendations for research scientists and policymakers and provide good science to leaders seeking to increase community resilience.



OAEC's Bring Back the Beaver Campaign



The eager beavers are coming back to deliver amazing ecosystem services related to water capture, aquifer replenishment and carbon capture. They are an essential species to create a resilient ecosystem and agriculture. One of our favorite projects is that being led by the Sonoma County nonprofit [Occidental Arts & Ecology Center](#). [Check out this link](#) to learn more about beaver benefits and OAEC's work to accelerate their recovery. *(Image credit: OAEC.org)*

Community-Owned Grocery Stores Emerging in the Heartland

The Heartland of America is where the farms are the biggest, the crops least diverse and many people have very poor access to healthy food. This results from the industrialization and concentration of agriculture, which eliminates jobs and transfers the wealth generated to too few families and multinational corporations. We see the same dynamic in the Great Central Valley of California. We are encouraged to see via [this New York Times story](#) that traditionally conservative communities in the Midwest are responding like many progressive communities on the coasts. Locally owned grocery stores featuring regional farm products are popping up in many places to improve food access and revitalize rural economies. *(Image credit: photo mix)*



Thank you for your support!



Doris Meier
Publisher, PULSE of the Food Movement
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