



Holding the Line, School Food, Actions to Take

Greetings!

Reflections on the Moment

The challenge we all face is to remain diligent as the pandemic continues its curse upon our people. I see so many without masks and so many gathering in packs. More than in the past. I understand the need and desire to forego all the protective measures, to return to normal, but then I think of my 88 year-old father and the small pod of people I will periodically join for socially-distanced meet ups. And I continue the discipline.



As the harvest is entering peak pace, I can only imagine how hard it is for the food chain workers in the fields, where it is very hot; or in the processing plants and their homes, both often crowded. It is a tough row to hoe. We may only be in the middle of COVID's first wave and it is imperative that we work together to protect our fellow humans. *(Photo credit: coyote/Pixabay)*

School is on the Horizon

The complications around safe environments and school meals loom large. That is why we thought you'd appreciate today's podcast with **Adam Kesselman**. He is the Executive Director of [The Center of Ecoliteracy](#), a pioneering organization working to transform



school food. We talk about the importance of school food and their programs, COVID's disruption and the new opportunities that have emerged as a result. (Photo: Adam Kesselman)



Please Take This Action: Help Seniors Access Healthy Food

ROC is joining The [Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative](#), [Marin Food Policy Council](#), [Agricultural Institute of Marin](#) to advocate for two proposals to support state funding for senior nutrition programs in anticipation of major revisions to the 2020-21 State budget.



In light of the impact of COVID on seniors, and the Governor's commitment to a Master Plan on Aging, we seek to: (1) Grow the [Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program](#) to serve more than 110,000 additional seniors who can cook at home; (2) Create a pilot program to help long-term care facilities, home-delivered meal programs, and other providers to source healthy food for seniors that depend on others to cook for them.

[Please endorse HERE](#)

Update on ROC Livestock Work

ROC is joining forces with [California Certified Organic](#)



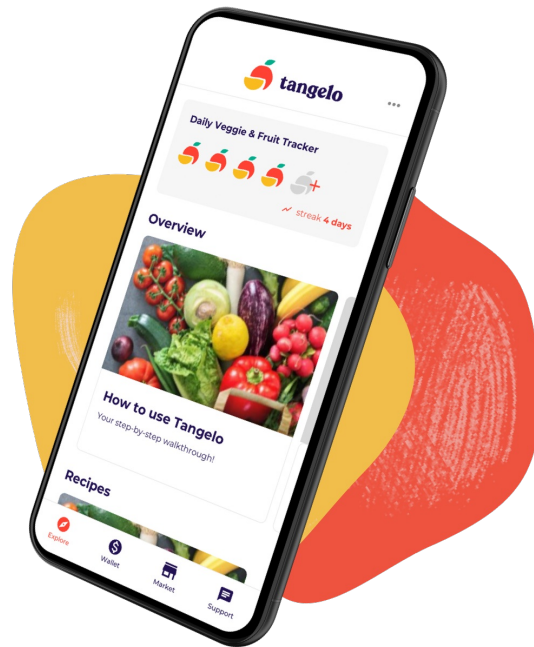
[Farmers](#) (CCOF) to support a new coalition of organizations and producers seeking to improve the state's capacity to slaughter and process poultry, lamb and beef from small and mid-sized operations. This is an outgrowth to our work with the UC Davis Food Systems Lab, about which I shared [last month](#). We will pursue policy changes

based on a white paper that will make the case for new policies including state investment in a network of mobile and fixed plants across the state. Our producers and rural economies deserve help! Watch for updates or [let me know](#) if you want to learn more.

(Photo credit: Doris Meier)

Wholesome Wave and the Tangelo App: A Breakthrough Moment

Check out this [great article from Fast Company](#) about the Wholesome Wave program for which ROC is playing a strategic role in California. It is an amazing innovation that we believe could eliminate food deserts as we know them in huge areas of the state. The goal is to scale the effort that is now operational in Los Angeles County and soon to be in Sacramento. More to come on this initiative.



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Please Become a Contributor to Our Work

I hope our range of action to create a just, resilient and healthy food system is of interest to you. Please consider making a donation for our policy work, which is very hard to fund from traditional philanthropic sources, but is badly needed.

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Thank you!



Michael Reid Dimock
President
Roots of Change
A Program of the Public Health Institute



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mail@rootsofchange.org | www.rootsofchange.org