



Spring is on the Horizon - ROC is Ramping Up Action

Dear Doris,

We are excited to share an invitation to the annual Food Champion award event next week in Sacramento (Feb 22nd), our latest podcast episode with Leonard Diggs of Cascade Ranch, and reports on other ROC projects!

10th Anniversary: Annual Food Champion Award Event



Please join us for this
annual event at
**Mulvaney's B&L in
Sacramento**

**Wed, February 22
5:30pm to 7:30pm**

Roots of Change, in collaboration with the California Food & Farming Network, along with more than 50 organizations working across the food & farming system, are excited to celebrate our past and new Food and Farm Policy Champions, along with the release of the 2022 Food & Farm Scorecard.

The scorecard annually tracks the voting records of California state legislators on key food and farming policies and honors a select few legislators that have stood out. **As we celebrate the 10th year of the scorecard, we'll also be re-honoring our Alumni Food and Farm Policy Champions. Please join us in celebration!**

2022 award recipients are:

- **Assemblymember Buffy Wicks**
- **Assemblymember Steve Bennett**

We also wish to thank Mulvaney's B&L for



their continuing support of this important event.

Please **RSVP by February 18**. Food & drinks will be served. Doors open at 5:30pm. The event is free and begins at 6pm.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Meat Producers Engage at PT Ranch in Ione, CA

ROC, in partnership with UC Davis Food Lab, is involved in a 3-year USDA grant based project to develop **two high value meat supply chains** serving small- and mid-size producers and their processors. We are organizing meetings all over Northern California with producers, processors and buyers to bring locally processed, high quality meat from farms and ranches to Bay Area and Sacramento Metro markets.

Here a few highlights from our recent meeting at **PT Ranch in Ione, CA**, with the gracious hostess Molly Taylor, and several ranchers who attended the meeting.



Ecofarm Town Hall Session with Policy Makers on the Next Farm Bill

On January 20th, Roots of Change, **Organic Farming Research Foundation**, and the **National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition** coproduced a town hall session on the 2023 Farm Bill at the **Ecofarm** Conference. With the Farm Bill's

estimated budget of \$1,295 trillion over 10 years, ensuring those resources are used to build safe, healthy, just, and ecologically sustainable farms and communities is more critical than ever. The session was very well attended and included lively discussions on specific issues between farmworkers and the panelists **Rep Jimmy Panetta**, **CDFA Secretary Karen Ross**, and **USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt**. Here some photos from the event:



A packed conference room at the town hall session.



An ALBA Farmer and Javier Zamora from JSM Organics posing for a photo after addressing the panelists.



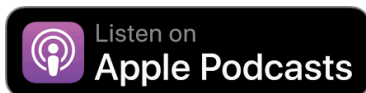
CDFA Secretary Karen Ross in conversation with an attendee.



Rep. Jimmy Panetta posing with farmers.

Latest Flipping The Table Podcast Episode with Leonard Diggs of Cascade Ranch

It is Black History Month and today's episode reveals the history of one Black Farmer, **Leonard Diggs**, and his devotion to expanding the opportunities and chances of success for historically marginalized women and farmers of color seeking to become part of the nation's agricultural sector. Leonard and Michael explore the path to scaling up the number of farmers and ranchers needed to sustain our nation's abundance and heal some of its many wounds.



The Unaddressed Crisis in Agriculture

Blog post by Michael Dimock, ROC's Executive Director



Neither the media nor policymakers are sufficiently focused on an existential crisis in American agriculture. Farmers and ranchers are an endangered species. As we do for wolves, salmon and whales, we need policies and programs to ensure farmers and ranchers do not die out. With a new Farm Bill on

the horizon we must demand changes in agriculture policy. The seeds of change are in place, but they need our tending. *Photo: RGR G., Pexels*

[Read More](#)

In case you missed it:

A Look Back Over the Years - A Short Visual Journey of ROC's 20 Year History



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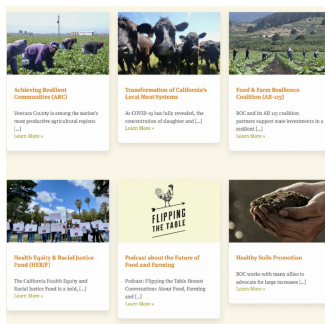
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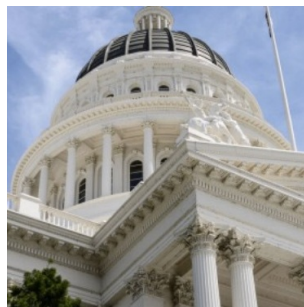
Doris Meier
Editor of the PULSE
Roots of Change

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2022 Policy Work



Podcast



Roots of Change is a program of the [Public Health Institute](#)

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