



Promising Forward Movements on All Fronts

Dear Doris,

We hope you're enjoying this gorgeous Spring weather after so many weeks of severe rain storms... While we feel much gratitude for the replenished watersheds in California, there is still a constant stream of ongoing challenges to our food system that ROC is committed to tackling. Here are some updates from the past few weeks since our last newsletter:

Enthusiasm for our Regenerative Meat Project is Spreading Across NorCal!

As we travel through Northern California to meet with ranchers for our **USDA funded meat supply chain project**, we are reaching a critical mass in terms of numbers of ranchers interested in participating in transforming the regional meat supply chain and processing capacities with the goal to improve resilience, social equity and rural economic health.

Since not all ranchers are available to attend in-person meetings, we recently offered a **virtual meeting**. **Over 60 ranchers** participated showing support and great enthusiasm for the project and generating excellent conversations. Additionally, we went to **Jamestown in the Sierra Foothills** on April 5th to **meet with ranchers from Tuolumne and Calaveras counties**. Below are a few photos from these two events.

**Virtual Meeting on March 27th with over 60 Ranchers from Napa,
Solano and Yolo Counties (and beyond)**



Aggregating Livestock for High-Value Market Opportunities for California's Small- and Mid-Scale Meat Producers

Funding source: USDA AMS Grant #AM21RFSPCA1023-00

Building on support from TomKat Foundation and USDA Hatch funding program



Courtney Riggle from our team presenting our [meat project](#) to over 60 ranchers. The call generated great questions and discussions among many engaged ranchers who expressed gratitude and enthusiasm for our project.



Sandy "Jake" Jacobson posing questions regarding project details.



Rancher Marshall Long (and his granddaughter) voicing support for the project.

Rancher meeting in Jamestown for Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties on April 5th



Ranchers from Tuolumne and Calaveras counties meeting with our team in Jamestown, in the Sierra Foothills.



Many thanks to Casey & Bob Ratkovich from Copper Rock Farm for taking the time to show our team their land and cattle.

Bond Invests in Making State's Food and

Farming System More Resilient



18

Coalition
Members

160

Coalition
Supporters

39M

Citizens
Affected

1

California
Food System

Two California Assembly Committees Give Green Light to AB 408

On March 29, AB 408 passed out of the **California Assembly Agriculture Committee** on a bipartisan vote of 10-0, and on April 10, it passed out of the **Assembly Natural Resources Committee** with a bipartisan vote of 10 - 1!

AB 408 is authored by Assemblymember Lori Wilson and would place a **\$3.4 billion bond measure** on the November 2024 ballot which, if passed by voters, would invest in a more equitable and climate resilient food and farming system.

The bond bill is sponsored by the [Food & Farm Resilience Coalition](#), 18 organizations (ROC is one of them) advocating for food access, environmental justice, sustainable agriculture, labor and public health. The bond bill has also received official support from over 85 organizations and several co-author sign ons. Read the full press release [here](#).

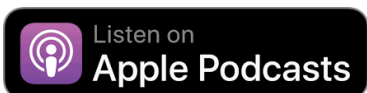
Flipping The Table Podcast with Clifford Pollard, Cream Co, Inc.

Providing the Missing Middle Link in Creation of West Coast Regional Regenerative Meat Supply Chains

In the national effort to reanimate local and regional meat supply chains serving primarily organic and regenerative ranchers, the key is a



what is known as a “cut and wrap facility.” These are where animal carcasses are skillfully cut into steaks, chops and roasts and ground into burger and hot dogs sought by shoppers, restaurants and cafeteria food providers. **Cream Co**, founded by **Cliff Pollard**, fills this vital niche on the nation’s west coast.



A Season of Change

Blog post by Michael Dimock, E.D., Roots of Change

Spring is a time of new beginnings. This spring is particularly full of new developments in the world of food and farming. I begin this post with a quote from USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack from his March 16, 2023 **opening statement** to the Senate Ag Committee, which has begun deliberating the next Farm Bill. No Secretary of the



USDA has been so stark about the need to transform our food system. In fact, in his statement he uses the term “transform” or “transformation” ten times. Here is an extended excerpt from the top end of his remarks:

We are at a pivotal moment for American agriculture and rural communities with a decision to make about if, and how, agriculture will meet the challenges of our time.

[Read More](#)



Share This Email



Share This Email



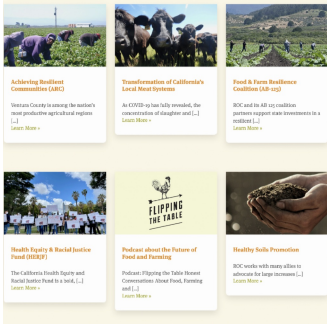
Share This Email

Thank you for your interest and support of our work!

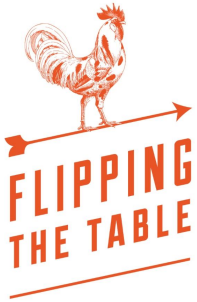
Doris Meier
Editor of the PULSE
Roots of Change

Click here to
DONATE NOW

Current Projects **2022 Policy Work** **Podcast**



- Sustaining Resilient Communities (ABC)**
Ventura County is among the nation's most productive agricultural regions. Learn More >
- Transformation of California's Local Food Systems**
An ECHO-4D has fully revealed, the convergence of climate and... Learn More >
- Food & Farm Resilience Coalition (AFRC)**
RCC and its 40 co-lead partners support state investments in a resilient... Learn More >
- Health Equity & Racial Justice Fund (HERJF)**
The California Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund is a first... Learn More >
- Podcast about the Future of Food and Farming**
Podcast: Flipping the Table: Farmer Conversations About Food, Farming and... Learn More >
- Healthy Soils Promotion**
RCC works with many allies to advocate for large investments... Learn More >



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



mail@rootsofchange.org | www.rootsofchange.org

Roots of Change | 555 12th Street, Suite 600, Oakland, CA 94607

[Unsubscribe mail@rootsofchange.org](#)
[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by mail@rootsofchange.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!