

# Advocacy for Funding Prescribed & Targeted Grazing





## Our Coalition



CENTER FOR  
FOOD SAFETY

OCCIDENTAL ARTS  
& ECOLOGY CENTER



# California's Climate Smart Agriculture Programs

Almost \$424 million invested | > 1,750 grants | > 20 million MT CO<sub>2</sub>

Sustainable Ag  
Lands  
Conservation  
Program  
(SALCP)



State Water  
Efficiency &  
Enhancement  
Program (SWEEP)



Alternative  
Manure  
Management  
Program  
(AMMP)



Healthy  
Soils  
Program



# Overview of Recent Advocacy Efforts

- AB 125 (Rivas) Equitable Economic Recovery, Healthy Food Access, Climate Resilient Farms, and Worker Protection Bond Act
- Budget Advocacy for \$8 M for Prescribed/Targeted Grazing Infrastructure
- SB 977 (Laird) Conservation Ranching Incentive Program

# Food & Farm Resilience Coalition

- Sponsored AB 125 (Rivas) in 2021
- \$3.3 B bond measure:
  - \$700 M for food/meat processing infrastructure
  - \$637 M for farmworker safety & well-being
  - \$750 M to combat hunger
  - \$1.25 B for sustainable ag



## AB 125 Prescribed Grazing Infrastructure Language\*

*“Forty million dollars (\$40,000,000) shall be allocated for grants for farmers and ranchers to **support prescribed grazing infrastructure** to support wildfire prevention, improve livestock management, and enhance biodiversity, including fencing and water stations for livestock.*

*Moneys shall be allocated to a recipient pursuant to this paragraph only if the recipient develops a **prescribed grazing management plan** in coordination with a technical service provider.”*

\*Funding proposal led by CA Cattlemen’s Association



# Budget Surplus Changes Strategy (2021)

- AB 125 fails to advance due to unexpected budget surplus
- Coalition pivots to smaller, one-time budget requests
  - Includes \$8 M request for prescribed grazing infrastructure
- Secured \$1.3 B in FY 21-22 in food/farm system investments
  - But did not succeed in getting the \$8 M grazing infrastructure funding

# Try Again (2022)

- Another budget surplus
- Food & Farm Resilience Coalition requests \$8M again (February)
- 14 legislators sign on (March)
- Organize stakeholder letter to demonstrate grassroots support (April)





# Budget Request Letter Language (2022)

*“Request \$8 million in FY 22-23 for the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to invest in prescribed and targeted grazing infrastructure such as portable and stationary fencing, corrals, water tanks, troughs, pumps, and trailers for livestock transportation.”*

# Where We're At Now

- Administration proposed additional \$10 M (split between FY 22-23 & FY 23-24) **specifically for grazing** through CALFIRE's **Fire Prevention Grant Program** in its Nature-Based Solutions Budget Change Proposal (May)
- Governor's "May Revise" Budget to be released Friday

# Admin's Budget Change Proposal (May)

*“Grazing is an important and proven activity type in the mitigation of hazardous fuel reduction and community wildfire preparedness. This **additional funding [\$10 M]** would **allow CAL FIRE to expand grazing fuel reduction opportunities** throughout California, and increase the total number of acres treated...*

*In 2020-21, 105 grants were awarded for nearly \$138 million with an additional \$120 million available in 2021-22. **Four of these grants** were awarded for **goat grazing** for hazardous fuel reduction. **Goat grazing** is an important and proven activity type in mitigation of hazardous fuel reduction and community wildfire preparedness.”*

Why only goats? Will CALFIRE tailor grant guidelines to grazing projects? Good questions!

# Also Worth Noting...

- SB 977 (Laird) Conservation Ranching Incentive Program
  - Sponsored by Audubon CA
  - Would establish program at Wildlife Conservation Board
  - Would provide grants for developing and implementing grazing and habitat management plans on private rangeland
  - Passed unanimously out of Senate Natural Resources Committee
  - Currently in Senate Appropriations Committee

Questions?

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