Advocacy for Funding Prescribed & Targeted Grazing
Our Coalition

[Image of a group of people and logos]
California’s Climate Smart Agriculture Programs
Almost $424 million invested | > 1,750 grants | > 20 million MT CO₂

- 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)
“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?

Contact me at: brian@calclimateag.org