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NEWS RELEASE

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Finding Land to Farm or Ranch Panel Featured at the PlacerGROWN Food and Farm Conference

The PlacerGROWN Food and Farm Conference will feature a panel workshop on finding land to farm or ranch. The conference is scheduled for Saturday, February 4th at Lincoln High School. Tim Van Wagner will discuss the Living Lands Agrarian Network (livinglandsagrariannetwork.org) non-profit organization that offers training and mentorship to a new generation of farmers.

When a trainee is ready to begin their own independent farming business, the Network offers access to land, infrastructure, continued mentorship, as well as venues for farm sales to help them get a successful start. Their model is largely dependent on local community members who value the importance of local, ecological agriculture and offer portions of their private property to our organization.

A recently completed on-line resource is the creation of a land bank. The Living Lands Land Bank is a community resource to help create more local farms. Land owners who want to host a small scale, ecological farm can post details about their property. Local farmers, looking for land, can search the land-bank and look for a potential farms site that suits their own needs.

Liya Swartzman will discuss efforts conducted by California Farm Link. Their core program consists of matching retiring farmers and landowners with beginning farmers. California Farm link has been successful in providing creative solutions for finding land to farm including land leasing, lease-purchase options, and conservation easements. They have an on-line land bank that lists properties available for farming or ranching.

Another aspect of access to land is succession planning for aging landowners. Farmers and ranchers face special challenges in planning for the transfer of the farming operation to the next generation. In this panel, Attorney Margaret Fulton will help discuss goal setting for farm families, continuation of the farm operation after the death of the first spouse, and fair treatment of both on-farm and off-farm children after the death of both parents. Margaret is a graduate of the PlacerGROWN Master Advocate program.

The land panel workshop will be one of 25 workshops to be held on February 4th at the Lincoln High School, Lincoln, CA. For more information, including registration, visit either <http://placergrown.org/wp/> or <http://ucanr.org/sites/PGFFC>, or call PlacerGROWN at (530) 889-7398 or UC Cooperative Extension at (530) 889-7385.

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