

Speaker Biographies: C-AGG Sacramento 2018

ALAN ABBS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (CAPCOA)



Alan Abbs serves as the Executive Director for CAPCOA which represents the executive officers of the 35 local air pollution control districts and air quality management districts in California. Alan joined CAPCOA in 2015 after serving as the Air Pollution Control Officer for the Tehama County Air Pollution Control District for 8 years. In that position, he was responsible for air quality programs addressing agricultural and prescribed burning, stationary source permitting, indirect source permitting, and grants. Previously, Alan served as the Solid Waste Director for Tehama County, managing the Tehama County Landfill, hazardous waste programs, and curbside waste collection, and as the Environmental/Technical Manager at a paper mill for the Pactiv Corporation.

MARCI BARANSKI

CLIMATE CHANGE SPECIALIST, USDA



Marci Baranski manages projects on greenhouse gas estimation and conservation data for agriculture and forestry at USDA. These include GHG inventory data and method improvements, tools and methods for GHG estimation, and reporting of USDA conservation data. She is certified as a UNFCCC expert reviewer for national agricultural greenhouse gas inventories. She received her PhD in Biology and Society from Arizona State University in 2015 where she worked under Ann Kinzig and studied international agricultural innovation systems. Marci completed a BS in Biochemistry from Michigan State University in 2010.

PIPA ELIAS

SOIL HEALTH STRATEGY MANAGER, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY



Pipa Elias is Soil Health Strategy Manager at The Nature Conservancy. She manages the soil health program, which is helping advance the adoption of soil health practices across the US by drawing from the Conservancy's work across the country and helping catalyze new partnerships to drive scientific, economic, and policy solutions for soil health. Pipa's expertise is in applying scientific research to advance policy and conservation solutions, having started at The Nature Conservancy in 2014 as a Senior Policy Advisor for land use and climate change. She published over a dozen reports on sustainable forestry and agriculture related to climate mitigation.

AMÉLIE GAUDIN

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF AGROECOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DAVIS



Amélie Gaudin joined the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of California Davis in 2015 as an Assistant Professor of Agroecology. She obtained a Ph.D. in Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph and worked as an agronomist and crop physiologist at various CGIAR centers to increase rice and potato production under drought or less intensive water and nitrogen management in smallholder farming systems. Her current research focus on developing and testing sustainable management practices that have conservation of natural resources, agrobiodiversity and ecosystem services as a basis for improvement. She investigates how cropping system management affects the crop and soil mechanisms involved in maintaining or recovering ecosystem services.

NICHOLAS GOESER

VICE PRESIDENT OF PRODUCTION & SUSTAINABILITY, NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION – SOIL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP



Nicholas Goeser is Vice President of Production & Sustainability for the National Corn Growers Association. In this role, Nick connects water quality, climate change, soil health, crop protection, and NCGA research directions with on-farm management, crop productivity, profitability and environmental responses through data collection, analysis and communications. Nick's prior research background includes over a decade of research in the areas of crop production, nutrient cycling and management, and environmental quality. Nick's prior research background includes over a decade of research in the areas of crop production, nutrient cycling and management, and environmental quality.

WAYNE HONEYCUTT

PRESIDENT AND CEO, SOIL HEALTH INSTITUTE



Dr. Wayne Honeycutt is the President and CEO of the Soil Health Institute, where he leads the Institute's programs to safeguard and enhance the vitality and productivity of soils. He previously served for 5 years as the Deputy Chief for Science and Technology with USDA-NRCS in Washington, DC, where he led programs in technology acquisition, development, and transfer to ensure NRCS conservation practices reflect the latest scientific advances for conserving our nation's soil, water, air, plant, animal, and energy resources. He served as a Research Soil Scientist for 14 years and a Research Leader for 10 years with the USDA-ARS New England Plant, Soil, and Water Laboratory, where he led and conducted interdisciplinary research on carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus cycling and sustainable cropping systems development.

GEETIKA JOSHI

SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST SUPERVISOR, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Geetika Joshi received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Microbiology in New Delhi, India. Subsequently, she received a PhD in Soils and Biogeochemistry from UC Davis. She was then a post-doctoral researcher at the UC Davis Center for Regional Change, where she worked to identify barriers to community engagement for academic researchers and strategies to communicate scientific data to grassroots communities. Ms. Joshi joined CDFA in 2014 and is currently at CDFA's Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation, working on incentives programs on Climate Smart Agriculture, including the Healthy Soils Program and livestock methane reduction programs.

CHRIS KERSTON

DIRECTOR OF EVENTS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH, THE SAVORY INSTITUTE



Chris Kerston ranched full time for nearly 15 years before joining the Savory Institute. With a longstanding passion for regenerative agricultural and better food distribution systems, Chris has dedicated his life to helping connect ranchers with consumers in ways that create synergistic value for both sides. With formal training and instinctive talent, Chris utilizes media in concert with traditional marketing techniques to help ranchers share their stories and build long lasting relationships with partners based upon common goals. Chris has become a recognized public speaker championing for stronger connections between grower and eater and providing training to help build those connections. He is very enthusiastic about developing opportunities for young ranchers.

JENNY LESTER MOFFITT

UNDERSECRETARY, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Jenny Lester Moffitt is a 5th generation California farmer and Undersecretary at the California Department of Food and Agriculture, where she was Deputy Secretary from January 2015 – February 2018. Appointed to these positions by Governor Jerry Brown, Jenny works to engage stakeholders on issues that affect ranchers and farmers, including climate change, land use, water policy, and food security. As a farmer and policymaker, Jenny believes that agriculture is critically important to sustaining our environment and economy. Prior to joining CDFA, Jenny spent 10 years as Managing Director at Dixon Ridge Farms, her family’s organic walnut farm and processing operation. Growing up on the farm she would later help manage, Jenny learned firsthand the importance of taking care of the land and the people that farm it – and the value in fostering economic growth.

KAREN LOWELL

AGRONOMIST, USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Karen Lowell, Ph.D., CCA is an Agronomist with the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. She is based in Salinas, CA and serves 14 counties in the Central Coast, Central Valley and Bay Delta regions. She is also a Certified Crop Advisor. She works with individual growers, as well as a wide range of public and private partners supporting growers as they manage conservation challenges in a complex production, market and regulatory climate. Much of her work is directed to creating user-friendly decision support tools for growers and conservation professionals to facilitate best management outcomes on working lands. She frequently works in close collaboration with Cooperative Extension and Research scientists to ensure that she brings the best information to growers seeking NRCS support. Karen was an Agriculture Extension Agent in Sierra Leone West Africa with the Peace Corps.

KATHRYN LYDDAN

DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION DIVISION OF LAND RESOURCE PROTECTION



Kathryn Lyddan is the Director of the Division of Land Resource Protection, the division of the Department of Conservation that manages California’s farmland mapping, monitoring and conservation programs. Before joining DOC in 2016, Kathryn spent thirteen years as the Executive Director of the Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust where she worked with local farmers to protect farmland with agricultural conservation easements and to create an economically vibrant future for Contra Costa agriculture. While at BALT, Kathryn worked on broad range of food and farming projects, including the Buy Fresh Buy Local marketing campaign and the Richmond Farm 2 Table CSA. Before joining BALT, Kathryn practiced public finance law at a private law firm for ten years.

RYAN MCCARTHY

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY ADVISOR, CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD



Ryan is the Science and Technology Policy Advisor to the Chair at the California Air Resources Board (CARB). He is a leader in shaping California’s efforts to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote zero emission vehicles, and reduce emissions of methane and other short-lived climate pollutants. Prior to his appointment at CARB by Governor Jerry Brown in 2011, McCarthy was a Science and Technology Policy Fellow in the office of California Assembly Member Wilmer Amina Carter. Ryan received his master’s and doctorate degrees in civil and environmental engineering from UC Davis and bachelor’s degree in structural engineering from UC San Diego.

DIANA PAPE

VICE PRESIDENT, ICF INTERNATIONAL



Diana Pape joined ICF in 1983 and has been supporting initiatives to address climate change ever since. Since the late 1990s she has specialized in evaluating the costs and mitigation potential for options and practices to mitigate the non-CO2 GHGs. For USDA she has led the development of reports on costs and mitigation potential for agricultural conservation practices and methodologies for estimating GHG emissions at the farm scale. Most recently, she supported evaluation of USDA data to assess the national adoption of agriculture conservation practices. She has also supported life cycle analyses of GHG emissions for assessing the benefits of nutrient use efficiency practices that lead to the reduction of fertilizer use.

DEBBIE REED

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, C-AGG



Based in Washington, DC, Debbie serves as the Executive Director of C-AGG by managing and providing leadership and development for C-AGG activities and meetings. Her extensive policy expertise in agriculture, climate change and natural resources serve to guide and inform C-AGG's work in the US and abroad. Debbie's past positions in the US legislative and administrative branches and work in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) continue to support and inform C-AGG's policy and program development and stakeholder engagement and outreach. Debbie currently serves on the Board of Directors of Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture. Debbie is also the President/Director of DRD Associates LLC.

KATE SCOW

PROFESSOR OF SOIL SCIENCE AND MICROBIAL ECOLOGY, UC DAVIS



Kate Scow is Professor of Soil Science and Microbial Ecology in the Department of Land, Air and Water Resources and Director of the Russell Ranch Sustainable Agriculture Facility that hosts the [Century Experiment](#). Scow is also Chair of the International Agricultural Development Graduate Group. Scow's research program investigates the role of soil microbial communities in providing ecosystem services in agricultural and polluted ecosystems. Specifically, she investigates linkages between diversity and greenhouse gas emissions, responses of soil functional diversity to long term management practices, effects of co-contaminants in organic amendments on soil communities, and works in Uganda soil management and irrigation practices for vegetable production by smallholder farmers.

EMILY WIMBERGER

CHIEF ECONOMIST, CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD



Emily Wimberger is the chief economist at the California Air Resources Board where she leads the economic analysis of California's climate change and criteria pollution regulations and policies. Emily is also a member of California Department of Food and Agriculture's Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel. Previously, Emily served as a researcher at the University of California Center for Energy and Environmental Economics at UC Santa Barbara and as Economics Fellow at the California Air Resources Board where her research focused on carbon market design and vehicle emission reduction programs. Emily received her Ph.D. in Agriculture and Resource Economics from the University of California Davis and her bachelor's degree in Energy, Environmental, and Mineral Economics from Penn State.