

UC ANR Research and Extension Centers

The REC Advantage

Hopland REC (HREC)

Located on more than 5,300 acres of oak woodland, grassland, chaparral, and riparian environments just south of Ukiah, HREC's diversity of soils, plant and animal communities, and environments is typical of the Coast Range in northwestern California. Half of the more than 20 species of oaks native to California can be found on HREC.

Our focus

HREC research is focused on finding better ways to manage natural resources and conduct sustainable agricultural practices in animal and veterinary science, entomology, plant ecology, public health, watershed management, and wildlife biology.

The HREC research and extension advantage

HREC is designed to serve your research and extension needs. We make a commitment to the viability of long-term research projects, and the restraints a commercial grower or landowner might impose are not present. Extensive databases spanning over 60 years add value to your research. On-site staff and conference facilities simplify hosting your extension activities.

Affordable

UC ANR underwrites a significant portion of the cost of conducting your research.

Staff support

Agricultural technicians can support your research operations; GIS lab staff can advise and assist with spatial data collection, management, and analysis.

High-speed connectivity

3 MB per second download and upload

Facilities

- Research: state-of-the-art GIS lab, wet lab with prep room, greenhouse, 72-tank soil lysimeter, 9 barns, sheep scale, extensive herbarium collection, 20-bed bunkhouse with kitchen and laundry
- Extension and outreach facilities: The Rod Shippey Hall—a new, state-of-the-art conference and field lab facility for groups up to 275

Requests for land, labor, and facilities are screened and allocated by a research advisory committee. Timelines and application forms can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/recforms>.



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources ■ Research and Extension Center System



Hopland

RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER

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Superintendent: Robert J. Keiffer
Director: Robert M. Timm, Ph.D.
<http://ucanr.edu/sites/hopland/>

Hopland REC at a glance

5,338 acres

Diverse Coast Range habitats within the Russian River watershed; rolling hills, small valleys, with some steep and rugged topography; 500–3,000 feet above sea level; Mediterranean climate zone

Annual Mean Precipitation

37" at the 800-ft elevation level

Annual Mean Temperature

Summer maximum 91°F; Winter minimum 56°F

GIS Lab

Mapping, spatial analyses, database design and implementation, and custom programming

Soil series

17 soil series identified, part of the Franciscan formation

Laboratories

1,000 sq. ft. of available lab and bench space with basic web lab capabilities, 2 fume hoods, drying ovens, centrifuge, analytical balance, glassware

Greenhouse and Lysimeters

950 sq. ft. greenhouse; bank of 72 free-draining lysimeters

Research flock

600–800 breeding ewes

Six modern barns with electricity

9,600 sq. ft. main sheep barn, horse barn, feed and hay storage, animal quarantine facility

Research Examples

Malaria in western fence lizards

More than 34 years of studies at HREC have investigated the parasite-host system of a malaria parasite of the Western fence lizard and its vector, a sand fly that lives in ground squirrel burrows. Through extensive field observations in tandem with lab and molecular studies, more is known about this organism than about any non-human malarial parasite, giving us an understanding of how parasites persist and evolve.

Spatial ecology and ecosystem services from California grasslands

A UC Davis scientist is studying effects of spatial pattern of grassland vegetation at different scales. Since 2008, 16 plots representing three vegetation patterns have been continuously monitored for soil moisture and temperature, precipitation, volume and quality of rainfall runoff, air temperature, arthropod diversity and abundance, and soil carbon. The data gathered from this study provides a basis for complementary projects.

Behavioral Research on American Kestrels

The American kestrel is the most sexually dichromatic North American falcon, yet there is limited understanding of why it generates and maintains distinctive male and female plumage. By establishing nest boxes, scientists at HREC have been able to gather data on the morphological and behavioral differences between male kestrels of different plumage patterns in the wild. Combining this information with museum studies of plumage and genetic analysis of population structure provides researchers with a better understanding of plumage variability in all birds of prey.

"[HREC has] enabled me to undertake innovative and ambitious projects that would not be feasible elsewhere. HREC not only supplied skilled labor, but most importantly, decades of experience to improve experimental design and fine-tune research questions. [Their staff] bring 'eyes on the ground,' monitoring and sampling plots when my research team can't be there, and alerting us not only to potential problems, but also potentially exciting, unexpected results."—Dr. Valerie Eviner, Plant Sciences, UC Davis

