

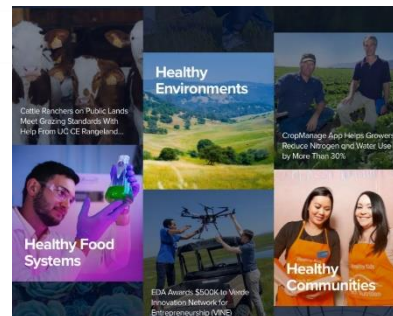
The Role of a Cooperative Extension Specialist

Cooperative Extension (CE) Specialists are publicly engaged scholars who ensure that university research is applied to help California communities solve problems and realize opportunities. By developing mutually beneficial relationships with colleagues and various stakeholders (e.g. public agencies, industry, non-profit organizations, youth, consumers, and the public), CE Specialists create applied research and education programs tailored to community needs. CE Specialists connect campus- and county-based UC academics, conduct applied research to address specific problems or opportunities, and provide educational leadership and technical information in support of county-based CE academics and clientele. The public value created by CE Specialists plays an integral role in fulfilling the University of California's land grant mission.

Who administers the Specialists?

CE Specialist positions are funded as part of UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR). Most CE Specialists are located in UC campus departments, where they are provided administrative support as faculty members. CE Specialists are evaluated for merit and promotion using four criteria including extension education, applied research, professional competence and activity, and university and public service. A few Specialists are housed in non-campus units or at UC campuses other than UC Berkeley, UC Davis, and UC Riverside.

As part of ANR, CE Specialists are expected to provide leadership and support to ANR program teams, workgroups, and strategic initiatives. Working closely with other CE academics, they bring leadership, visibility, and collaboration to research and extension efforts. Often their activities are conducted in interdisciplinary teams consisting of Cooperative Extension academics, campus faculty connected to the Agricultural Experiment Station (AES), and public and private stakeholders.



Cooperative Extension Specialists are UC academic faculty who deliver relevant research to solve problems and realize opportunities in California communities.



What is UC ANR?

UC ANR is a statewide network of University of California researchers and educators dedicated to the creation, development and application of knowledge in agricultural, natural and human resources. Cooperative Extension is one of the mandates of UC ANR. The CE system includes farm, natural resource, 4-H youth development, and nutrition, family and consumer sciences (NFCS) advisors and staff based in more than 50 counties throughout California, in addition to more

than 100 CE Specialists. CE Specialists play a key role in networks that catalyze research and education programs to enhance the California economy and the well-being of the state's diverse communities. They have a rich history of engaging a wide variety of partners both on and off campus – ensuring their work is both cutting edge and relevant to their target communities in and beyond California.