

UC Cooperative Extension in Ventura County



Photo: N Levy

“There is no future in farming here in Ventura County without the leadership of UC Cooperative Extension.”
– Maureen McGuire, VC Farm Bureau CEO

For every **\$1** invested in agricultural research and extension, there is a return of **\$20** to the community
Alston, Anderson et al (2010)

Strengthening Local Communities

UCCE Ventura supports Ventura County through applied research and education in agriculture, natural resources, and youth development to support the economic vitality of local agriculture and promote healthy, safe, and resilient communities. Our UCCE educators and academics live and work locally, expanding the reach of UC to engage all people and communities in identifying practical, science-based solutions. We partner with public, private, and community-based entities to support healthy communities, food systems, and environments.



Photo: UC Environmental Stewards

Developing a Qualified Workforce

UC ANR’s programs equip youth for college, successful careers, and to be engaged in their communities. We empower workers and growers to use cutting-edge research to advance innovation. UC ANR helps develop a qualified workforce and promotes healthy communities to increase opportunities to ensure a robust and thriving economy.

327
Volunteers

21,151
Volunteer Hours

The Year in Volunteers

Each year, UCCE volunteers donate their time to extend proven solutions. They help make Ventura County residents and communities more sustainable, protect our natural resources, and empower us to be healthy, successful, and productive.

\$789,255
Value of Volunteer Service Hours

4-H Youth Development Program

4-H empowers young people with skills to lead for a lifetime

Ventura County 4-H Clubs participate in countywide events that challenge youth to demonstrate their skills in public speaking, clothing design, and showing livestock. These events include Presentation Day, Fashion Revue, and Large and Small Animal Livestock Field Day.

In 2023-24,

- 1,152 youth and adults participated in 4-H
- the county avian project won the CA State Championship
- two youth were recognized for achievement and excellence at the state level



4-H youth are
4X
more likely to give
back to their
community



2024 Avian Bowl Champions
Photo: E Ramirez

UC Master Gardeners

177 volunteers
10,700 volunteer hours
7,927 contacts at 97 public events
\$399,324 in Community Services



- Served 384 residents through the Ventura County Home Gardener Helpdesk, including advice about home gardening and plant sample diagnosis.
- Taught monthly hands-on drip irrigation classes to reduce water use.
- Installed native plants at the California Veteran's Home in Ventura to attract pollinators and monarch butterflies for resident education and enjoyment.
- Supported 10 demonstration garden sites across the County



"Best in Parade" at the Ventura St. Patrick's Day Parade.
Photo: UCCE

UC Environmental Stewards



16 volunteers
527 volunteer hours
\$19,667 in Community Services

UC Climate Smart Agriculture

\$10M to local growers to improve climate smart ag practices
115K metric tons of CO2 reduced in CA

UCCE Advisor-led Meetings and Workshops

2,837 growers and partners attended **63** education events to learn new practices to:

- optimize nutrient management
- increase irrigation efficiency
- improve pest management practices

These efforts contribute to increased agricultural efficiency and profitability, ecological sustainability, and improved health for all.



Workshop at Boething Treeland Farms
Photo: S Sope

Irrigation Field Day at Crisalida Berry Farms
Photo: M Valdes-Berriz



95%
Of participants and industry partners attending UCCE Advisor workshops plan to implement new practices they learned



Cool season cover crop trial at HAREC
Photo: C Greer

Hansen Agricultural Research and Extension Center (HAREC)

In Sept 2023, HAREC relocated from Santa Paula to Camarillo.

Currently, there are six field and greenhouse research projects underway with additional projects planned. These include establishing the CSU Channel Islands apiary and expanding the UC Master Gardener program. Our vision is to be a premier climate-neutral, research and education center that conducts transformational research and outreach to support a vibrant agricultural and natural resource base, resilient food system, and healthy communities on the Central Coast of California.

Annemiek Schilder,
HAREC Director

15,000 – 20,000
Estimated acres of vegetables and berry crops managed with improved irrigation and nutrient management practices in Ventura

10-25%
potential reduction in fumigant use for growers adopting pathogen mapping