

CALE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



CONNECTING LAND, CLIMATE, AND COMMUNITY

Hello friends and partners!

We're thrilled to introduce the first edition of our new quarterly Climate Action and Land Equity newsletter! Each quarter, we'll share what we've been up to, highlight collaborations, showcase events, and lift up voices in the Climate Action Land Equity (CALE) space. If you'd prefer not to receive these updates, just let us know and we'll make sure you're removed from the list.

WHAT IS CALE?

The Climate Action Land Equity (CALE) Project is part of California's effort to build a resilient, equitable, and carbon-neutral future through climate-smart land use. UC ANR in partnership with CAFF, CARCD, and CFBF was funded 1.7 million through the Department of Conservation (DOC).

CALE focuses on two of the most urgent climate action needs: Equitable land access and land management diversification.



Our goals?

- Create climate action plans that center around historically underserved communities
- Strengthen regional technical assistance and capacity
- Improve tracking and outcomes of land-based climate projects
- Deliver multi-lingual, community-driven outreach and education



This work aligns with the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy and California's 30x30 goals, helping to bridge equity, conservation, and climate resilience across the state.

WINTER QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

BUILDING A POWERFUL NETWORK

We hit the ground running in 2025, holding seven collaboration meetings with key partners:

- Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF)
- California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF)
- California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD)

We also worked with two farmers for our first Growing CALE Connections event! These connections continue to shape a stronger, more united CALE community.

- Mark Lopez: mark.lopez@ocproduce.com
- AG Kawamura: ag.kawamura@ocproduce.com
 - Both Mark and AG welcome research projects, tours, and opportunities to support their team and operations.



UC ANR & THE AG LAND EQUITY TASK FORCE

Big news: We've launched a new strategic partnership with UC ANR and the Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (ALETF)! Cristina and Chandra Richards developed a collaborative proposal for the Strategic Growth Council, kicking off a powerful initiative that includes:

- Listening sessions with growers and Tribal partners
- Tribal engagement led in partnership with a tribally-led organization
- Policy recommendations shaped by on-the-ground voices



REGIONAL SPOTLIGHTS



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

This quarter we brought the momentum to Orange County and hosted our first regional CALE Connections event. We also hired a Project Policy Analyst, Sierra Reiss, to manage the outreach and engagement portions of the CALE Project. Additional accomplishments:

- Launched an RFP to partner with community-based organizations that will help to develop and produce video content and outreach materials.
- Published a CALE feature in UCCE San Diego's "Extension Connection"
- Co-organized a Land Management Workshop with county and federal partners
- Started planning our next CALE Connections event in San Bernardino (April 17)
- Rolled out our CALE Spanish Fact Sheet and more public-facing resources



BAY AREA

We brought CALE to the EcoFarm Conference and joined key virtual meetings with the Land Equity Task Force and Strategic Growth Council. We're also working on:

- Focus groups with Tribal communities and farmworkers
- Site visits with urban ag partners
- Coordinating with UC-wide efforts like COAR Transitions



INLAND EMPIRE

We hosted a statewide virtual gathering with the Underserved Veteran Coalition, met with UC Riverside's Small Farm team, and continued deep engagement with small/urban ag organizations—focusing on federal policy changes and land leasing trends.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS



CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE WITH FAMILY FARMERS (CAFF)



- Launched an agriculture land ownership mapping project with a GIS grad student.
- Advocated for land equity policies like AB 524 (Wilson).
- Continued hosting land equity education events for farmers statewide.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (CARCD)



- Invited RCDs to attend the San Bernardino CALE event
- Provided \$200 stipends for participation.
- Engaged in ALETF listening sessions and planning for upcoming Tribal-focused sessions in Susanville.



CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION (CFBF)



- Drafted a land equity survey for Southern California Farm Bureaus.
- Built awareness of CALE and future collaboration opportunities.



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WHAT'S NEXT?

Here's what's coming up in the second quarter:

- San Bernardino CALE Event – April 17
- San Diego Agritourism Summit – May 14-15
- Video storytelling with San Diego farmers
- Launching the CALE StoryMap and Website
- Finalizing our RFP selections for community outreach partners
- Statewide GIS stakeholder mapping
- Deeper Tribal and farmworker engagement through listening sessions



Thanks for being part of this journey toward land justice, climate resilience, and equity. We're inspired by our partners, grounded in community, and committed to meaningful change. Stay tuned for upcoming events and newsletters.

Let's keep growing CALE connections together!

With gratitude,
The CALE Team

