

CALE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



CONNECTING LAND, CLIMATE, AND COMMUNITY

Welcome back, friends!

We're excited to share the second edition of the Climate Action Land Equity (CALE) Newsletter! Each quarter, we'll keep you in the loop on our work to expand equitable land access, promote climate-smart land stewardship, and uplift the voices of communities across California.

If you'd prefer not to receive these updates, just let us know and we'll take you off 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

On April 23, 2025, CALE hosted its second regional gathering in Redlands, visiting two farms:

- Steve & Michelle Pollard of Jehovah Jireh Mobile Farm - bibleddays@aol.com
- Anna Knight at Old Grove Orange - anna.knight@oldgroveorange.com

Attendees toured the farms, discussed grower challenges, and shared lunch while exploring strategies from a new grower workbook.

Key takeaways:

- Challenges center on management, production, and distribution
- Interest in agritourism and youth engagement
- Needs include equipment, pest management, and longer-term land security
- County policies often overlook agriculture in favor of development

These conversations inform CALE's continued work in regional support and advocacy.



UC ANR & THE AG LAND EQUITY TASK FORCE

This quarter, CALE deepened its commitment to Tribal inclusion by hosting two virtual listening sessions on June 2nd and June 11th as part of our work with the Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (ALETF). These sessions highlighted critical themes such as:

- The need for culturally relevant technical assistance
- Historic barriers to Tribal land ownership
- The importance of funding land return and protection efforts

Chandra Richards also interviewed a representative from the First Nations Development Institute, adding national insight to the conversation. These voices are helping shape more grounded and inclusive land equity policy.



REGIONAL SPOTLIGHTS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Across Southern California, CALE partners are deepening engagement, lifting up local voices, and advancing climate-smart land strategies:

- Shared CALE's work at the AFT Land Transfer Navigator Forum.
- Showcased the project at both the San Diego County Fair and Climate Smart Ag Convening.
- Continued collaboration with a UC Davis graduate student to support regional analysis.
- We have been working with UC ANR's IGIS team to create a map of partners supporting equitable land access and climate-smart practices.



INLAND EMPIRE

- Hosted a virtual focus group with small and urban growers statewide.
- Presented at the UC Sustainable Agriculture Group meeting.
- Participated in the CDFA Controlled Environment Ag site visit in Irvine.
- Maintained regular check-ins with small ag-focused orgs to track local land access trends.

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

We're expanding visibility and access through new tools and collaborative media efforts:

- The first draft of the CALE website is now live, offering a central hub for updates, resources, and regional highlights.
- A StoryMap is currently in development to showcase land access challenges and community-led solutions across Southern California.
- This newsletter marks the launch of a regular update series to keep partners informed and connected.



SUB AWARDEES



In Q1, we released a Request for Proposal (RFP) to support the CALE Project's outreach and media goals. The RFP invited community-based organizations to create multilingual outreach materials and video content focused on land access, climate-smart land management, and support for underrepresented land stewards.

After a two-part review process led by four CALE team members, we awarded \$90,000 each to four outstanding organizations:

Photo from Condor Visual Media

- **Condor Visual Media** – An Indigenous-led media group based on tribal lands in San Diego, dedicated to amplifying Native voices through culturally grounded storytelling.
- **Asian Culture & Media Alliance** – A nonprofit organization serving Asian American and Pacific Islander communities across San Diego, Orange, and Los Angeles counties with language-accessible, culturally rooted media.
- **Entravision** – A bilingual media company based in Riverside County, bringing Spanish-language television and radio outreach to Latino communities across the Inland Empire.
- **California Farmlink & San Diego Food System Alliance** – A joint effort connecting food system advocates and land access leaders to support diverse growers and land seekers in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

These partners will play a key role in helping CALE reach more farmers, land stewards, and communities through trusted, accessible platforms.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE WITH FAMILY FARMERS (CAFF)



- Continuing to organize the Land Equity Collective
- Reviewed multiple versions of the Land Equity Task Force's recommendations
- Participated in a land access roundtable in Davis
- Data analysis of ag land ownership is underway (starting with Central Valley & Central Coast)

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (CARCD)



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RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

- Attended SGC Task Force meetings in Lassen County
- Provided \$200 stipends to four RCDs for CALE event participation
- Refined state-level land equity recommendations and supported AB 524

CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION (CFBF)



- Surveyed 92 members across seven Southern California Farm Bureaus.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Climate Action & Land Equity Project Impact

JULY 2025

15 PARTNERSHIPS CREATED

13 EXTERNALLY • 2 INTERNALLY

25 TRIBES OR TRIBALLY LED ORGANIZATIONS SERVED

9 STAFF POSITIONS CREATED AT PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

7 EXTERNALLY • 2 INTERNALLY

25 EVENT PRESENTATIONS

23 DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES SERVED WITHIN THE GRANT REGION

9+ PROJECTS DEVELOPED

5 OUTREACH EVENTS HELD

2 IN PERSON • 3 VIRTUAL • 158 REGISTRANTS

15+ OUTREACH MATERIALS CREATED

WHAT'S NEXT?

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

- August 6th and August 14th virtual Land Access Listening Sessions
- Finalize and launch the CALE StoryMap and multilingual website resources
- Collaborate with San Diego farmers to create new outreach videos
- Begin planning Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 CALE Connections convenings
- Wrap up stakeholder mapping with the UC ANR GIS team
- Continue to strengthen ties with our four new sub awardees to support equity-centered outreach and engagement.

Thanks again for being part of the CALE community. Whether you're a grower, advocate, researcher, or policymaker your voice and work matter. Let's keep growing together!

With appreciation,
The CALE Team

