

Spotlight on Marin County

Located just north of the Golden Gate Bridge, Marin County is defined by its coastal hills, rangelands, redwood forests, and watersheds that shape both its environment and economy. Our local UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) brings research and expertise to these landscapes through demonstrations, education, and collaborative projects, delivering practical, science-based solutions that strengthen agriculture, natural resources, and community well-being. We work in partnership with ranchers and farmers, natural resource managers, community organizations, and volunteers.

Our programs serve livestock producers, watershed and fire-preparedness stewards, 4-H youth and families, and residents seeking nutrition and gardening education—ensuring Marin County continues to thrive both agriculturally and across all communities.



Marin County rangelands.

Our Clientele

- Farmers & ranchers
- Food Systems supporters
- Educators
- Landscape professionals

Our Team

- 11 Academic Advisors
- 9 Program Staff
- 2 Community Educators

Volunteer Programs

- 4-H Youth Development
- Master Gardeners

Research and Extension

- 4-H Youth Development
- Climate Smart Agriculture
- Community Health & Nutrition
- Dairy
- Food Systems
- Forestry
- Fire Science
- Human-Wildlife Interactions
- Livestock & Natural Resources
- Soil & Water
- Specialty Crops
- Watershed Management

By The Numbers

Volunteers engage in community service to strengthen our impact across the county. These passionate volunteers help educate people on topics from home gardening and youth development to environmental stewardship and help us build connections with local communities.

486
volunteers

36,455
hours
donated

\$1.4 mil
volunteer
service hours

Sustainable Agriculture

In the Sustainable Agriculture Program, we continue helping Marin farms secure long-term viability through diversification and adaptation.

- 50 direct service engagements with farms, ranches and partners on topics like pond renewal, u-pick operations, agritourism, and organic certification.
- Workshops on food safety and pricing strategies for specialty crop growers.
- Drop-in sessions to sign up for grants and other funding assistance.
- Collaborative work with local non-profits and agencies to help build more farmworker housing, expand access to land for new growers, and support resilient rural mental health.



UC ANR Mission

UC ANR cultivates thriving communities, sustainable agriculture, resilient ecosystems, and economic prosperity in California through development and sharing of equitable and collaborative science-based solutions that have national and global impact.



4-H Youth Development

Marin 4-H continues its 100-year legacy of engaging youth ages 5 to 18 in discovering their passions and building leadership skills through hands-on educational projects — from sewing and animal husbandry to summer camp and short-term science activities at local libraries. The impact of 4-H participation is lasting: 84% of members report that 4-H helped them succeed in their careers, 94% say it strengthened their practical life skills, and 93% credit 4-H with helping them become more independent — a testament to the program’s enduring role in shaping capable, confident, and community-minded young leaders.

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

Community Health & Nutrition



The Community Health and Nutrition Program reached ~5,900 North Bay residents with education and resources on food safety, healthy aging, and chronic disease prevention, while contributing to the Health and Nutrition Commission on Aging, local legislative platforms, and peer review of County RFP submissions supporting older adult nutrition programs.

Local/Regional Food Systems

UCCE’s Food Systems team supports the development of a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient local food system. An example is the North Coast Emergency Food System Partnership, a \$1.5M project spanning 6 counties strengthening the resilience of our emergency food system.

UCCE Marin partners with diverse food and agriculture groups across Marin through the Marin Food Policy Council. The Council brings together local food system stakeholders in a roundtable format that allows for policy engagement, information exchange, and collaboration. Together with the Council, UCCE Marin facilitated meetings monthly, learned about key food system issues, and advanced a shared policy platform.

310

Participants

15

Events

2

Coalitions



Master Gardeners

In the 2025 program year, the UC Marin Master Gardeners organized and contributed to nearly 95 public education programs and events, reaching an estimated 12,000 Marin residents. Through these outreach efforts, participants gained practical knowledge and inspiration to save water, create fire-smart landscapes, support wildlife habitats, and grow their own edibles — fostering more sustainable and resilient home gardens across the county.

Specialty Crops

The UCCE Specialty Crops Program delivered 13 educational events and 9 presentations, reaching growers and agricultural professionals across the region. Following these events, 96% of participants reported gaining new knowledge, and 97% expressed their intent to adopt more sustainable practices. In collaboration with the Marin Resource Conservation District (RCD), the UCCE Specialty Crops Advisor also supported Carbon Farm Planning for a Marin County vegetable grower, advancing efforts toward climate-smart agriculture.



“Dry Farming Strategies Workshop” with Arron Wilder at Table Top Farm, Point Reyes Station, in collaboration with UC Berkeley

Watershed Management

UCCE Marin partnered with the Marin Agricultural Commissioner and stakeholders to provide analysis of potential impacts to Marin agricultural from proposed Soulajule Raise and Upper Nicasio Reservoir water supply storage improvement projects. The analysis was presented to the Marin County Board of Supervisors and Marin Water Board of Trustees in October of 2024.

