

SUPPORTING CALIFORNIA THROUGH CLIMATE ACTION & LAND EQUITY (CALE) EVENT

Growing Connections in Orange County

- Monday, January 13th
- 9:00am-3:00pm
- 42 attendees



CONNECT WITH FARMERS FROM THE EVENT

- Mark Lopez: OC Farm Bureau President and Farmer - mark.lopez@ocproduce.com
- AG Kawamura: Solutions for Urban Agriculture - ag.kawamura@ocproduce.com
- Both Mark and AG welcome research projects, tours, and opportunities to support their team and operations.

Through the Climate Action and Land Equity (CALE) Project, UC ANR is working to advance equitable land access, diversified management, and regional climate strategies for underrepresented communities. Our goals:

- Increase land manager representation & success
- Elevate community & stakeholder voices
- Expand climate action, especially in SoCal

Events like this help bring these goals to life! At our first event, attendees toured farms in Irvine and connected at the South Coast Research and Extension Center.

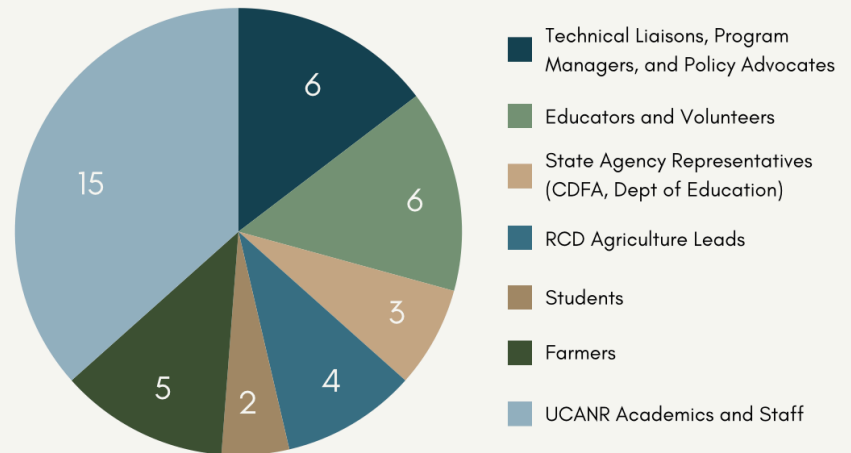


GROWING CONNECTIONS IN ORANGE COUNTY

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Rich agricultural heritage amidst a quickly growing urban area.
- Local foods benefit the community, economy, and environment.
- Top crops: nursery stock, strawberries, avocados, and bell peppers.
- Sustainability matters: drip irrigation, soil practices, and pest management practices help to strengthen yields.

ATTENDEES



CHALLENGES

- Land ownership in OC has been prohibitive since the 1970s due to high costs of land, resources, and production.
- Many farmers rely on land access from larger landowners, educational institutions, and/or military bases depending on location.
- Land tenure leases span up to 5 years but do not provide enough long-term stability.
- Production is directly impacted by land tenure, labor support, and climate.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Leverage programs:** Incentivize land match and succession programs statewide (i.e. offer an open & no-cost platform for landholders and land seekers)
- **Improve equitable access:** Provide financial aid to land seekers for down payment and land purchase
- **Establish tax credits:** Incentivize longer lease agreements (i.e. >5 years) with an option to buy or renew leases
- **Make public lands available:** guide local governments and agencies to make natural lands available to growers.

