

Practical. Connected. Trusted.

For over 110 years, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) has been the local UC connection, delivering the power of UC research in agriculture, natural resources, nutrition and youth development to Californians in their own communities to improve lives and livelihoods.

UC ANR achieves its land grant mission through the work of UC Cooperative Extension academics conducting research at nine UC Campuses, ten Research and Extension Centers (RECs) and also through 15 statewide programs including 4-H Youth Development, UC Master Gardeners, and UC Integrated Pest Management. By working and living among those we serve, UC ANR expands UC's reach to engage all people and communities in California, ensuring equal access to the UC System.



- 293 Cooperative Extension Advisors and Specialists
- 606,600 direct contacts/ educational exchanges
- 18,420 community volunteers
- \$52.3 million: value of volunteer hours donated annually

Impacting California

Growing tomorrow's leaders

The 4-H Youth Development program provides experiential learning to help culturally diverse youth reach their full potential by developing leadership, citizenship and life skills in supportive environments. Youth can participate in 4-H clubs, camps, after school programs and events. In FY 2024/25, over 72,300 California youth benefited from high-quality 4-H programming efforts which was supported by over 7,800 trained adult volunteers who devoted 936,400 hours of services valued at \$37.6 million.

4-H Drone Camps spark interest in agriculture careers among teens by using cutting-edge drone and mapping technologies. Blending hands-on activities with real-world applications, youth explore the science behind agriculture in fun and meaningful ways. Led by UC Cooperative Extension and IGIS, participants prepare for future high-demand careers by learning safe flight, airspace rules, crew roles, and how to turn aerial images into GIS maps.

- Compared to their peers, 4-H youth are:**
- 4 times more likely to make a positive contribution to their communities
 - 1.7 times more likely to take courses/pursue STEM careers

- UC Cooperative Extension
- Research and Extension Center
- UC Ag Experiment Station Campus

Avian Flu and Food Security

The rise of avian flu in California has greatly impacted the price and availability of eggs and continues to raise serious concerns for animal and human health. To minimize livestock and poultry exposure, UC researchers developed the Waterfowl Alert Network app which uses data gathered from satellites, weather radar, and land sensors help track the movements of wild birds who can carry avian influenza. This tracking system serves as an early warning tool, helping commercial poultry and dairy operations minimize waterfowl interactions and implement preventative measures against the virus.





Wildfire prevention and recovery

California faces increasing risks from catastrophic wildfire and impacts are felt across a variety of landscapes. The UC ANR Fire Network is an interdisciplinary team that brings research and education to California's communities and policymakers. Areas of expertise include home hardening and defensible space, vegetation management (prescribed fire, prescribed grazing), emergency preparedness, and community collaboration. Due to this coordinated Network, UC can respond to disasters – like the recent LA fires – as they unfold.

Since 2017, wildfires have burned through nearly 13 million acres in California.



Improved water-supply security

A collaborative study led by a UC Cooperative Extension specialist at UC Merced found that covering California's 4,000 miles of water canals with solar panels could save 63 billion gallons of water annually and generate 13 gigawatts of solar power. The findings led to the Turlock Irrigation District constructing solar panels over its water canals with \$20 million in funding from the California Department of Water Resources.



Managing pests and increasing agricultural productivity

As a result of UC ANR's Almond Pest Management Alliance Project, use of mating disruption as an ecologically sustainable pest management practice tripled over two years by growers and pest control advisers who influence over 400,000 acres of almonds in the San Joaquin Valley. The Navel Orangeworm is the most damaging pest of nut crops, with significant economic loss to farmers every year. UC IPM research showed that crop loss could be halved (saving \$18 per acre) when a new 'green' technology is applied to disrupt mating in the Navel Orangeworm. If adopted by 25% of California's nut acreage, this technology could save nut growers \$10 million annually.



Improving food security for low-income families in California

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) helps low-income families improve their nutrition practices and teaches food-budgeting skills. In 2025, EFNEP served over 12,680 adults and youth, resulting in a reported average family savings of \$42.90 per month, which equals \$514.80 per year, using skills learned in EFNEP classes. Collectively, EFNEP families save over \$1.55 million in food savings per year. After counting the teaspoons of sugar in a can of soda, one student expressed surprise: "Wow, I never knew how much sugar was in soda. No more for me!"

Studies have shown that for every \$1 invested in EFNEP, more than \$8 is saved in current and future healthcare costs.