

# Vision 2040: A Blueprint to Guide Our Efforts

For over 150 years, UC ANR has stood as a wellspring of information, innovation, and collaboration. We represent a critical link between UC research and the everyday challenges affecting lives and livelihoods. Over the next 15 years, UC ANR will continue to serve as a catalyst for positive change, empowering Californians to build a brighter and more sustainable future together.

## Our Vision

UC ANR will be valued in every California community for meaningful engagement and making a positive impact in people's lives.

## Our 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.

## UC Cooperative Extension

Cooperative Extension (UCCE) serves as UC's "community ambassador," extending research and education programs in every California county and expanding the University's reach far beyond the system's 10 campuses and its student population. UCCE researchers and educators work with, live in, and are supported by the counties they serve. Through long-lasting and trusted partnerships with their communities; industry groups; and state, local, and federal agencies, they address many of the most pressing problems facing California.

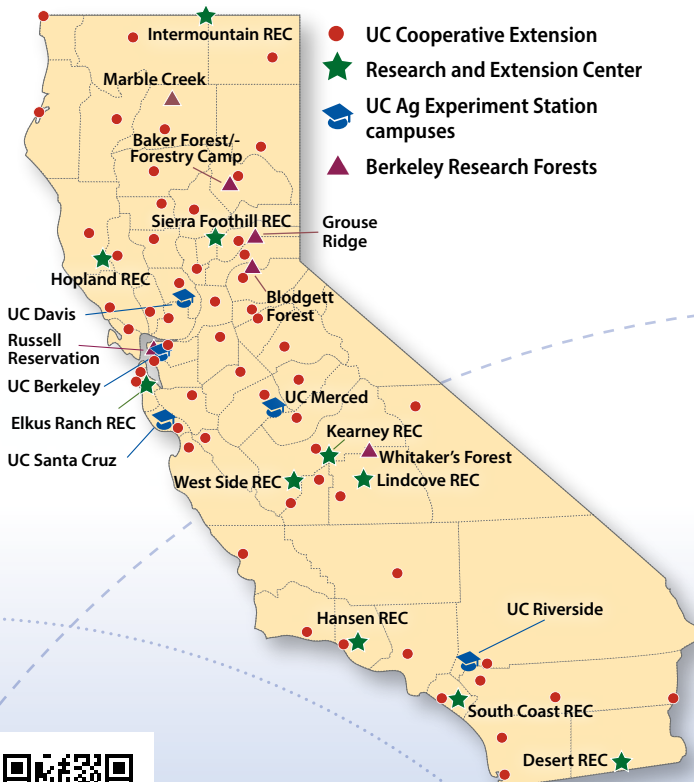
UC ANR also administers 17 statewide programs and institutes, with research and outreach to address the state's high-priority issues. Volunteers are integral to UCCE effectiveness; roughly 20,000 volunteers contribute over one million volunteer hours annually in the 4-H Youth Development, UC Master Gardener, UC Master Food Preserver, and UC Environmental Stewards programs.

## Research and Extension Centers

UC ANR's ten Research and Extension Centers (RECs) provide a network of living laboratories, generating innovative research, education, and outreach to benefit diverse communities across California's agricultural and working lands, wildlands, and urban environments. Stretching from Oregon to Mexico, from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, these 13,000 acres enable experimentation across the state's many climates, ecosystems, and crop varieties, and the testing of agricultural management practices.

## Agricultural Experiment Station

UC's Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) faculty provide worldwide research leadership in agriculture, environmental sciences, economics, nutrition, community and youth development, and veterinary medicine. They collaborate with UCCE Specialists and Advisors to conduct research and make their findings available to the public. UC's AES researchers are located at the Berkeley, Davis, Merced, Riverside, and Santa Cruz campuses.



# Seven Challenges: Where We Can Make a Difference

As a long-trusted source for practical tools and information, UC ANR is uniquely positioned to cultivate, co-create, and share science-based solutions on a wide range of local to global issues. Based on extensive input from diverse sources, seven distinct California challenges have been identified as priority areas in which UC ANR can make a significant impact over the next 15 years.

## Our Priorities

*These first three challenges specifically relate to UC ANR's research and programming core:*

### Agriculture and Food Systems

California's agriculture and food systems face barriers to productivity, sustainability, profitability, and equitable distribution of healthy foods.

### Natural Ecosystems and Working Landscapes

California's diverse ecosystems are impacted by multiple stressors, threatening ecosystem services, biodiversity, and resilience.

### Thriving People and Communities

California's people and communities face barriers to physical, nutritional, social, and economic well-being, coupled with inequitable opportunities for development and civic engagement.

*These next four challenges are overarching and impact all areas of UC ANR research and programmatic activity:*

### Climate Change

Climate change fundamentally threatens California's communities, ecosystems, agriculture, and other working landscapes, creating urgent demand for scalable strategies to mitigate causes and build resilience.

### Innovation

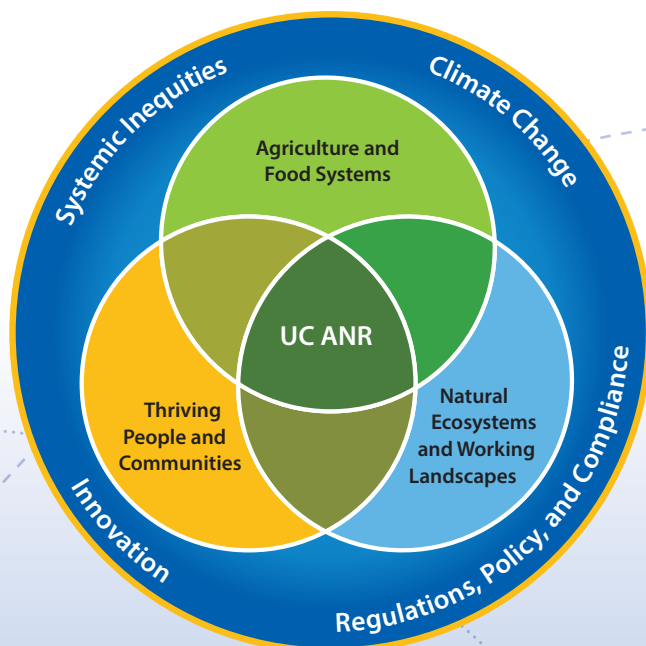
Rapidly changing information, technology, materials, and public demands necessitate the development, evaluation, and adoption of secure, innovative tools and solutions.

### Regulations, Policy, and Compliance

California faces a complex, ever-changing regulatory environment in which science-based input and community engagement are needed to inform policy decisions and implementation.

### Systemic Inequities

Inequitable access to critical resources stresses many segments of California's population, causing significant disparities in well-being.



## About Vision 2040

This Vision 2040 was informed by feedback and insights from hundreds of UC ANR personnel, external partners, and clientele across the state. The UC ANR mission and vision were refreshed, as was the list of challenges upon which UC ANR will focus our research and engagement. Examples of activities we will pursue for solutions are in the full document. Specific administrative goals, objectives, and defined metrics to support the mission and vision are detailed in UC ANR's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

*Complex Challenges, Connected Solutions*