

CALE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

CONNECTING LAND, CLIMATE, AND COMMUNITY

We're excited to share the third edition of the CALE Newsletter, keeping you updated on efforts to expand equitable land access, promote climate-smart stewardship, and uplift community voices across California.

We're thrilled that Chandra Richards who established this program has been promoted to Area County Director of San Diego and Imperial Counties! While this brings some internal changes, the CALE project will keep running strong. In the next quarters we will welcome Chris McDonald as PI and Darlene Ruiz as Academic Coordinator in January while Sierra Reiss will remain the Land Equity Project Manager.

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 awarded \$1.7 million through the California 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.

THIRD QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

BUILDING A POWERFUL NETWORK

At the beginning of Q3, we partnered with American Farmland Trust to co-host our third event. The Building Connections for Land Access virtual event brought together growers, land managers, and regional partners for a practical, resource-focused session.

The event featured a panel of five speakers who shared guidance and tools on:

- Legal education and navigating land agreements
- Succession planning for retiring landowners
- Land matching programs that connect growers with available land
- Loan and financing options for new and expanding producers

These sessions strengthened statewide collaboration and offered participants a clearer path to the resources they need to access, sustain, and grow their operations. [To watch the recording of the event and learn more visit our CALE website.](#)



UC ANR & THE AG LAND EQUITY TASK FORCE

This summer marked a major milestone in our collaboration with the Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (ALETF) and the Strategic Growth Council (SGC).

- Our team finalized key focus group and interview themes for the Task Force's final report, centering grower perspectives on land diversification and equitable access.
- A UC Davis master's student, Ugoada Ikoro, worked alongside our team and supported our efforts by hosting two listening sessions with Southern California growers and community leaders.
- The extended SGC contract concluded on July 18, integrating reflections from farmers, ranchers, and stakeholders statewide.
- At the end of this contract we were able to integrate our reflections from stakeholders and put together our [key challenges and lessons from the Strategic Growth Council here.](#)



REGIONAL SPOTLIGHTS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

This region stayed busy with collaborative events and on-the-ground progress:

- Completed regional equity assessments, capacity reviews, and funding analyses to strengthen Southern California's land access network.
- Continued building our Statewide Partners Map with the help of the UC ANR IGIS team. We have been working to include a new mobile version designed to connect land stewards with local resources.
- Hosted a summer internship advancing statewide discussions on land policy and access.
- Supported the Systemic Inequalities Program Team to expand UC ANR's outreach to underserved communities.



INLAND EMPIRE

- Represented CALE at the UC Urban Ag Group meeting to highlight land equity priorities.
- Partnered with the Riverside-Corona RCD for a CALE farm visit.
- Participated in CDFA's Controlled Environment Agriculture Project to align climate and land access goals.
- Hosted a statewide virtual focus group on diversified land use with small farm and urban growers.

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Our outreach efforts made major strides in public engagement this quarter:

- Launched the fully translated CALE website and released new bilingual outreach materials.
- Shared the Q2 CALE newsletter and Building Connections event video (in English and Spanish).
- Began developing a StoryMap to showcase CALE's mission and regional impact.
- Added a "How-To" guide for using the Statewide Partners Map and a new Grower Worksheet to connect users with TA programs and resources. Both can be found on our website.



SUB AWARDEES



This quarter, we officially kicked off work with our four CALE subawardees and began collaborating closely with each team. Through regular planning meetings, shared strategy sessions, and early content development, our partners have started shaping outreach materials, videos, and multilingual resources that reflect the needs and voices of the communities they serve.

Their on-the-ground expertise is already strengthening CALE's ability to reach diverse growers and land stewards across Southern California.

- ***Asian Culture & Media Alliance*** - Serving AAPI communities in SoCal, ACMA developed branding for the Shared Roots Initiative, produced a CALE intro video, outlined educational media content, and began planning podcast and video production.
- ***Entravision*** - This Riverside-based bilingual media team completed research, interviews, and B-roll filming, and is developing scripts, translations, and targeted digital media campaigns for Latino agricultural audiences.
- ***California Farmlink & San Diego Food System Alliance*** - The partners expanded bilingual Toolshed resources, posted new regional land listings, planned 2026 events, and continued preparing the upcoming "Landseeker Education" program.
- ***Condor Visual Media and Los Coyotes Tribal Nation*** - An Indigenous-led media group in San Diego preparing to launch storytelling work once contracting is finalized.



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)



- Facilitated the Land Equity Collective and reviewed Ag Land Equity Task Force recommendations.
- Shared preliminary California Land Observatory findings with partners and media.
- Represented CALE at the Earthworkers Summit and California Community Land Trust Network, expanding partnerships and land access solutions.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (CARCD)



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- Refined sections of the Land Equity Task Force Draft Report on land transition and acquisition.
- Coordinated with UC ANR and RCDs across Southern California.
- Helped plan the Small Farms Conference in Fresno and attended Land Equity Task Force meetings in Humboldt County.

CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION (CFBF)



- Continued supporting CALE's regional engagement and outreach efforts.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday on December 2nd is a global movement that celebrates the power of generosity to create real, lasting change.

This year, your support can help advance the work of the Climate Action and Land Equity (CALE) Program, which is expanding fair and affordable land access and supporting the next generation of growers. From building new partnerships to sharing practical tools and research, we're helping remove barriers that keep farmers, especially those from underserved communities, from securing long term land tenure.



This year, CALE showed up across the state where we strengthened collaborations and advanced real solutions for land access.

Your support helps us continue this momentum. By giving to UC Agriculture and Natural Resources, you are directly fueling programs like CALE that are creating lasting change on the ground.

Join us in planting the seeds for a more just and resilient agricultural future.

[Click here to donate to the Climate Action and Land Equity program this year click here or scan the QR code.](#)

Thank you for being part of this movement and supporting our work. Your generosity makes it possible for CALE to continue opening doors to land access and strengthening the future of farming in California.



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WHAT'S NEXT?

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

- Join UC ANR and AFT for a virtual event on **December 12th from 10:00-12:00pm** highlighting outreach efforts, resources, and tools to promote equitable land access in Southern California.
 - Hear from CALE subawardees Condor Visual Media, Asian Culture & Media Alliance, Entravision, and California Farmlink + San Diego Food System Alliance as they share community-based plans.
 - Attendees can provide input to help shape programs for diverse farmers, ranchers, and land stewards.
 - View the flyer with registration information on the next page.
- Continue supporting subawardees on outreach materials and project deliverables.
- Collaborate with farmers to produce informational videos and develop a CALE StoryMap to share project goals, updates, and resources.
- Complete statewide stakeholder mapping with the IGIS Team and strengthen connections with technical assistance providers.
- Attend CARCD Conference, Farm Bureau Convention, EcoFarm, and Land Equity Task Force Committee in Ventura.
- Transitioning leadership from Chandra Richards to Chris McDonald and Darlene Ruiz.



Thank you for joining us on this journey toward equitable land access, climate-smart practices, and stronger communities. We're motivated by our partners, guided by the voices of growers and land stewards, and dedicated to creating lasting impact. Keep an eye out for upcoming events and newsletters!

With gratitude,
The CALE Team

