UC Cooperative Extension
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

COUNTY OF MARIN

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.



4-H members and parents participating in the 4th of July Parade in Novato.

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

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.

The Economic Power of Working Landscapes

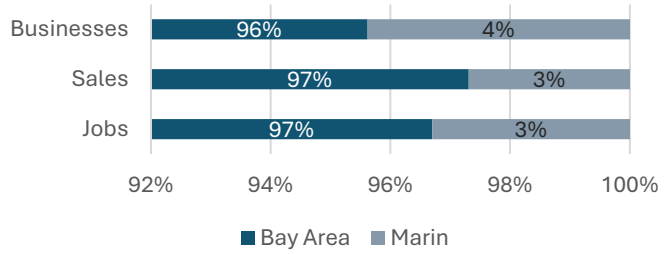
Marin County's farms, ranches, dairies, and coastal aquaculture operations are vital contributors to the local economy, supporting jobs, food production, and businesses throughout the agricultural supply chain. Beyond the value of agricultural products, these working landscapes sustain local food processing, strengthen rural communities, and provide essential benefits such as wildlife habitat, wildfire protection, and open space. Together, these contributions highlight the economic, environmental, and cultural value of Marin's working landscapes and the importance of sustaining a viable agricultural economy for future generations.

7,087 jobs

$1.82B sales

553 businesses

Marin County's Share of the Bay Area's Working Landscape Economy



Source: Dompka, A., Hill, A. E., & Wilcher, A. (2025). California's Working Landscapes: Evolving Contributions to National, State, and Regional Economies. UC Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Volunteer Program Impact

Volunteers are at the heart of our work, strengthening communities across Marin County through service, education, and outreach. From home gardening and youth development to environmental stewardship, their time and expertise help educate residents, build meaningful community connections, and extend the reach and impact of University of California Cooperative Extension.

517 volunteers

35,700 hours donated

$1.4 mil volunteer service hours

Supporting the Viability of Marin County Agriculture

UCCE Marin's Sustainable Agriculture Program connects local farmers and ranchers with resources, education, and technical guidance to support the long-term viability of Marin County agriculture. Through the Agricultural Ombuds program, producers receive assistance in exploring new enterprises, adopting innovative practices, and navigating the regulatory considerations that can accompany changes to their operations. In 2025, the Agricultural Ombuds program responded to 53 inquiries from producers and community partners on topics ranging from farmstands and agritourism to water rights and agricultural housing. The program also offered workshops on food safety, land access, and grant funding opportunities, helping producers build knowledge, explore new opportunities, and strengthen their agricultural businesses.

UC Master Gardener Program

During the 2025 program year, 360 Marin County UC Master Gardener volunteers contributed more than 26,338 hours of service supporting research-based horticultural education, community outreach, demonstration gardens, and public programming. Volunteers also reported 874 educational interactions with adults and youth through activities such as public education, demonstration gardens, community events, and the program's gardening help desk.

Through these efforts, UC Master Gardeners connected Marin residents with practical, science-based gardening knowledge and resources, helping community members explore sustainable gardening practices, water conservation, fire-smart landscaping, pollinator habitats, and environmentally responsible approaches to growing food. By sharing their expertise and extending the reach of University of California research, volunteers continue to foster environmental stewardship and more resilient home and community landscapes throughout Marin County.





4-H Youth Development Program

Marin County 4-H creates opportunities for young people to build confidence, develop leadership skills, and connect learning to the world around them. A highlight of the 2025 program year was the Climate Connections Academy, which introduced youth to climate science and environmental stewardship through hands-on exploration. Participants investigated topics including water quality, soil science, renewable energy, and local agriculture, with experiences that took learning beyond the classroom and onto a farm, into nature, and onto a college campus.

Through outdoor activities, guest-led workshops, and collaborative projects, youth explored environmental challenges while discovering how they can contribute to solutions in their own communities. Just as importantly, the academy created space for young people to build friendships, try new things, and see themselves as future scientists, environmental stewards, and community leaders.

These experiences are part of a broader 4-H program serving 215 youth through 28 volunteer-led projects, from sewing to geology. With the support of dedicated volunteers and community partners, Marin County 4-H continues to create welcoming opportunities for young people to discover their interests, strengthen their skills, and realize their potential.



4-H inspires young people to give back. 87% said 4-H strengthened their desire to engage in their communities.