The Desert Research and Extension Center (DREC) has been an integral part of California’s agricultural community since 1912. DREC conducts innovative and relevant agricultural, natural resources, and environmental research and education programs. One of the pillars of DREC’s mission is to educate the public through a growing Farm Smart program that was established in 2001. This program promotes a better understanding of agriculture, the source of our food, fiber and energy, and its impact on our economy and daily lives, as well as protecting natural resources and cultivating healthy people and communities.

"Learning about agriculture is important and helps our students understand farming and food production. Our students at Sacred Heart School enjoy the hands-on learning at Farm Smart.”

—Sacred Heart School Principal

Our Partners:

UC ANR DREC
Director: Jairo Diaz
Farm Smart Manager: Stacey Aparanano
Farm Smart Educators: Clarissa Abarca and Valeria Landeros

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Virtual Reach
63,471 YouTube & Social Media Reach*
1,142 New Followers*
3,653 Total Followers*

*Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube

Farmer Smart receives CA FFA Distinguished Service Citation for their work with FFA students

NIFA Farm-to-School: IV Ag tour
Local educators, food service staff, and administrators get hands-on agriculture tour with Jack Vessey

Senior U-Pick event brings local senior citizens to the farm for fresh produce, lunch and resources

12,896 total Farm Smart participants
7,090 participants in offsite community activities and presentations
5,806 participants in onsite K-12 field trips, career workshops and DREC events

“Farmer Smart invests in local student interns to assist with extension efforts.”