

Fact sheet: UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

The **UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)** is a critical partner with California's farmers and consumers, providing growers and ranchers with scientifically tested production techniques, educating families about nutrition, improving food safety and addressing environmental concerns. With programs in every California county, our research and extension network reaches from Tulelake to El Centro, with

- 320 UCCE academics actively engaged in research and extension projects.
- Nine Research and Extension Centers (RECs) in California, with more than 11,000 acres devoted to food, environmental and nutrition studies.
- Approximately 700 campus-based Agricultural Experiment Station faculty partners at UC Berkeley, UC Davis and UC Riverside.
- Research and extension collaborators in more than 130 countries working to solve agricultural problems at home and abroad.

RESEARCH

In the past 10 years, 500 million citrus trees have been grown from disease-free budwood provided by Lindcove Research and Extension Center (REC).

Desert REC has 1,300 carrot varieties in production for USDA's carrot improvement program.

UC holds patents for 11 strawberry varieties developed at RECs, and those varieties account for 65 percent of California production and 40 percent of all strawberry production worldwide.

A study from the UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, looking at the overall food system in San Luis Obispo County, has demonstrated clear links between the vitality of the county's agriculture and the health of both its residents and its food businesses.

Using "CropManage," a UC online decision tool, Central Coast farmers have cut back irrigation water use by 50 percent over the lettuce and broccoli growing seasons and still maintained the same harvest yield.

Half of all pistachios in California grow on rootstock taken from the mother pistachio tree at UC's Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

California became one of the leading producers of fresh blueberries after UCCE researchers identified varieties that could thrive in California, so long as the growers acidify the soils and maintain acidic conditions in the irrigation water.

UC Cooperative Extension developed the high-quality, cold-hardy artichoke variety "Imperial Star," greatly expanding the available climate range for artichoke production.

UC-developed methods to control irrigation flow rates and timing can reduce water use by 15 percent.

UC postharvest scientists discovered that quick-chilling of peaches, plums and nectarines after harvest, a common commercial practice, was killing the fruits' flavor and texture. New UCCE recommendations focused on careful temperature and humidity management in the packing house, truck and grocery store greatly improve tree fruit quality.

SERVICE

UC Master Gardener volunteers play a key role in helping Californians grow food in their own backyard:

- 5,400 UC-trained Master Gardeners work in 50 California counties to teach research-based gardening techniques that minimize the use of pesticides and artificial fertilizers.
- More than 1,200 community, school and demonstration gardens in California are managed by UC Master Gardeners.
- Altogether, Master Gardeners contribute roughly 350,000 hours each year educating members of the public in research-based home horticulture practices. The annual dollar value of those volunteer hours comes to about \$8.6 million.
- Last year, Master Gardeners logged more than 76,000 hours in continuing education classes taught by UC academics to keep them informed on new and advanced horticultural topics and trends.

Through our **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program** (EFNEP) and **UC CalFresh Nutrition Education Program** (also known as SNAP-ED), UC Cooperative Extension works with community agencies and schools to deliver nutrition education to low-income families, improving their health and food security and helping prevent childhood obesity.

- EFNEP and CalFresh programs in 33 counties reach 222,000 members of the public.
- Each year an average of 74,460 youth and 11,700 adults and families improve their nutrition and health-related skills through ANR's hands-on, interactive nutrition workshops and classes.
- As members of the very communities they support, our nutrition educators focus their efforts on low-income, otherwise-underserved populations (ethnicity 69 percent Hispanic, 13 percent Asian, 9 percent African American and 6 percent Native American).
- Program participants cover a wide age range — from pre-school children to adults in senior centers.

UC ANR's online portal for **Urban Agriculture** (<http://ucanr.edu/urbanag>) offers science-based resources for urban farmers and policymakers in California who make decisions about urban agriculture. Online resources give information on how to farm in your backyard, on a few acres or in a school or community setting. Web visitors find information on production, marketing, policies and more.

POLICY

Formed in 2014, the **Nutrition Policy Institute** engages in research designed to build and strengthen nutrition policy. NPI brings together experts from throughout the University of California system to share, synthesize, develop and collaborate on nutrition policy research, particularly as it relates to food insecurity, prevention of obesity and diabetes and promotion of wellness.