

UC Cooperative Extension in Ventura County



Photo: O Daugovish



Photo: J Sarick



Photo: E Volk



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Cooperative Extension



COUNTY of VENTURA

History

- Smith-Lever Act 1914
- UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Innovative research and education in
 - Sustainable, safe, and nutritious food
 - Economic success in a global economy
 - A sustainable, healthy & productive environment
 - Science literacy and positive youth development



What we do in Ventura

- Partner in the **economic vitality** of Ventura County's agricultural industry
- Promote positive youth development and protection of natural resources for **healthy, safe, and resilient** Ventura communities



737

participants in
Advisor-led
workshops



1,018

youth in 4-H



21,151

public service
hrs by UC
volunteers



Photo: E Volk

Goals for 2024-25

- Renew 10-year agreement with Ventura County
- Relocate UCCE office
- Address local needs in agriculture, natural resources, community health
- Increase partnerships & impact



Photo: J Sarick

Plan of Work 2024-25: UCCE Advisors



Photo: O Daugovish

Daugovish:
Develop disease resistant cultivars, precision fumigation

Faber: “Scout”
new subtropicals, rootstocks for disease resistance & productivity

Volk:
Fertilizer & water quality management in controlled environments



Photo: E Volk

Soil Health – Air Quality – Human Health – Economic Vitality – Water Management



Switching from micro-sprinklers to drip tape could save up to 4,700 acre-feet/year

Biscaro:
Efficiencies in irrigation & nutrient management

Photo: Field day at Crisalida Berry Farms. M Valdez



An avocado tree produces up to 1 million flowers annually.

Does yield improve by creating more pollinator habitat?

Cohen:
Sustainable pest control methods, conservation of pollinators

Photo: Fly on a Hass avocado flower. H Cohen



Plan of Work 2024-25: UCCE Community Education Programs

4-H Youth
Development:
New staff,
growing
participation

Natural
resources
outreach:
Invasive &
emerging tree
pests



Photo: J Clark

Promoting healthy communities – Protecting CA's natural resources – Building climate resilience

Photo: J Sarick



Climate resilience education:
environmental literacy,
participatory science, place-based education

Climate smart agriculture:
Healthy Soils Program, SWEEP

185 UC Master
Gardener
volunteers:
drought tolerant
landscapes,
invasive pests



Photo: J Tyler

New! UCCE Ventura Positions 2024-25

- 4-H Positive Youth Development Advisor – College and Career Readiness (Sept 2024)
- Food Systems Advisor (2025)
- Youth, Families, and Communities Academic – CalFresh Healthy Living, UCCE Program (PROPOSED)

Hansen Agricultural Research & Extension Center

- Continue to develop HAREC facility for research, outreach and education
- SALC Project with VC Agricultural Commissioner:
 - *Developing local food system and ag education strategies*



Thank you

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