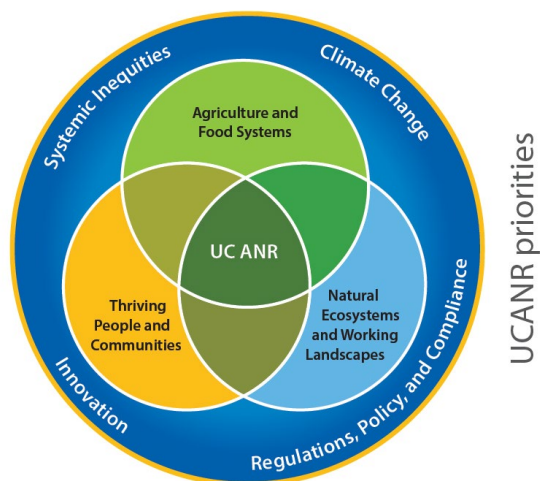


Spotlight on Contra Costa County

UCCE Contra Costa brings UC research directly to improve the lives of our county's residents. By living and working in the communities we serve, Cooperative Extension extends the UC's reach and delivers practical, science-based solutions to everyday challenges. Through partnerships with public, private, and tribal organizations, we advance stewardship, innovation, and community education. Ten UC academic advisors lead programs spanning **youth development, specialty crops, nutrition, horticulture, urban forestry, rangeland, urban pests, human-wildlife interactions, and community economic development**. Our programs generate and deploy millions of dollars annually in grants, gifts, donations, employment, and volunteer service hours.



Gardening as Community Building

The **2025 Great Tomato Plant Sale** by the UC Master Gardener Program of Contra Costa County featured **over 75 tomato varieties**, plus peppers, eggplants, squash, and herbs. Held in **Walnut Creek, Antioch, and Richmond**, the sale funds demonstration, school, and community gardens countywide. Gardeners enjoyed expert advice, new dwarf tomato introductions, and locally adapted selections supporting sustainable, community-centered gardening throughout the region.

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.

By The Numbers

\$2.4M | Value of volunteer hours donated
(2024, all programs, \$38.61/hour)

4-H

28,920

Volunteer Hours
Donated

Master Gardener

31,867

Volunteer Hours
Donated

Environmental
Stewards

509

Volunteer Hours
Donated

Cooperative Extension mobilizes hundreds of volunteers, leveraging each public dollar while fostering volunteerism and civic engagement around solving local challenges.



4-H camp offers youth the opportunity to build confidence and leadership skills.
Credit: B. Vales.

Evidence-Based Urban Pest Management

The **Urban IPM** program advanced efforts to monitor devices for biting mites, test new detection tools for bed bugs, investigate unidentified species of subterranean termites, and produce educational videos for household pest management. The program helped reduce pests and unnecessary pesticide applications.

“When bugs are detected, they can be removed or controlled using physical tactics such as vacuums, lint rollers, and household laundering (on the hot settings). Professional heat treatments, desiccant treatments, and residual insecticide treatments can be used for more serious or persistent infestations.”

Andrew Sutherland, Urban IPM Advisor

UCCE delivers \$20 in program extension for every \$1 of County investment



4-H Youth Development

4-H of Contra Costa boasts **695 enrolled youth** and **241 adult volunteers**.

It empowers young people through leadership, community service, public speaking, and science. Members explore diverse projects—from robotics and small-animal care to sewing, cooking, and outdoor skills.



\$20K

Scholarship pool awarded to 4-H Knightsen club from County Measure X funds

4-H youth are 4x more likely to give back to their community



Master Gardeners

UC Master Gardeners help residents grow healthy, sustainable gardens through research-based education and volunteer service.

256 trained volunteers manage demonstration gardens and annual plant sales with venues spanning **Walnut Creek, Richmond** and **Antioch**. The program offers workshops, school partnerships, and community events promoting water-wise practices, pollinator health, and local food production. It supports the Monument First 5 Center through workshops and harvest donations.



EFNEP

EFNEP provides education and training to children, adults and seniors around diet, physical activity, food safety, and food management. EFNEP served **231 families** in Contra Costa and mobilized **72 volunteers**. 96% of participants showed improvement in **diet quality indicators** and **86% improved physical activity**.



Sustainable, Productive and Safe Landscapes

- The **Specialty Crops** program advances economically resilient, sustainable agriculture through applied research, grower education, and partnerships supporting diverse crop production, soil health, irrigation, and integrated pest management.
- The **Urban IPM** program delivers science-based, ecologically sound pest management solutions that protect human health, reduce pesticide use, and strengthen urban community resilience through research, education, and collaboration.
- The **Environmental Horticulture** and **Urban Forestry** programs advance sustainable landscaping and efficient water use through applied research, education, and partnerships with industry, communities, and public agencies.
- The **Livestock** and **Human-Wildlife Interactions** programs promote sustainable rangeland management, fire resilience, and ecosystem restoration through applied research, producer education, and partnerships that strengthen land stewardship and wildfire preparedness.



Specialty Crops Advisor, Dr. Kamyar Aram, and cover crop expert, Tom Johnson, discuss third-year results of a cover crop trial in Byron.
Credit: K. Aram.



CalFresh Healthy Living

CalFresh Healthy Living provides nutrition education, reaching **446 participants**. Students in the Participatory Action Research program at Hillview Jr High toured the **Contra Costa Water District** to explore local water systems. Garden-enhanced nutrition education at the **Los Medanos Community Garden** in Pittsburg linked food systems, health, and youth empowerment.

1,791

Participants in Advisor-Led Activities in Contra Costa County

14,189

Educational interactions between UCCE and Contra Costa residents

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UC ANR
Nondiscrimination
Statement

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