



University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) **Baseline Budget Request**

BACKGROUND

The UC's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR), located within the U.C. Office of the President (UCOP), is responsible for overseeing programs focused on agriculture and natural resources including, CA Naturalist, Master Gardener, 4-H, Food and Nutrition Education, Integrated Pest Management, and Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education. Staff, advisors, scientists and researchers are located across UC campuses, research and extension centers, and local cooperative extension offices.

In the last twenty years, the State has reduced UCANR's budget by 57% and this has resulted in significant position vacancies, including advisors and specialist, specifically within Cooperative Extension and 4-H. This has left the Programs reliant on community donations, unserved areas of the State, or redirecting field staff from assisting farmers to pursuing research funding. In 2020-21, the situation became more severe, as the State reduced UCANR's base funding by \$9.2 million (12.7%). This has left UCANR with a significant budget shortfall of \$13.1 million and has resulted in more significant statewide staffing issues, vacancies and the loss of institutional knowledge.

ACTION

Urge your elected officials to restore base funding for UCANR. The Governor has proposed to increase UCANR's budget by \$9.2 million (from \$67,280,000 to \$76,502,000) in the May revision of the Proposed Budget.

TALKING POINTS

- Farm advisor and specialists are the original technical assistance network—they are local, trusted, and objective guides for farms and ranchers to apply the newest research findings to the field level and troubleshoot resource problems.
- Fully funding UCANR will facilitate progress towards California's climate and natural resources goals—UCANR conducts and shares agricultural research related to integrated pest management, nutrient management, soil health, biodiversity, water use efficiency, air and water quality, and animal health.
- UCANR's budget supports the 4-H Youth Development Program, responsible for introducing students to agriculture, STEM pathways, college preparation, civic engagement and leadership skills and inspire the next generation of agriculturalists.
 - 4-H graduates are 4x more likely to contribute to their communities
 - 4-H graduates, including young women, are 2x more likely to enroll in science, engineering and computer science courses

STAFF CONTACT

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