

ADVOCATE for the U.C. Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Please call or write your legislator and tell them:

“I support an additional \$20 million for the UCANR for programs like 4-H Youth Development and my local County Farm Advisor!”

The California Farm Bureau Federation and the We Love 4-H Campaign are partnering to advocate for more funding for UCANR’s budget, in an effort to support local 4-H Youth Development Programs and County Farm Advisors.

UCANR is responsible for running programs such as Farm Advisors and the 4-H Youth Development Program, both of which are funded through the state budget. Over the last 20 years, UCANR has seen a significant reduction in state funds (over 40%), meaning local programs suffer. California has lost over half of all of our Farm Advisors, and existing advisors serve multiple counties. Likewise, as funds for local 4-H Advisors and Program Representatives are reduced, employees must rely on county funds or private donations, or go without staff support. Your local legislator needs to know!

HOW TO REACH OUT TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL:

From now until June, the state Legislature and the governor will be negotiating on what should be included in this year’s state budget. Now is the time to let your state Assemblymember or Senator know how important your local Cooperative Extension Service Farm Advisors and 4-H Advisors and Program Representatives are.

WHO IS MY ELECTED OFFICIAL? To identify your Assemblymember and Senator, visit this [website](#) and put in your home information. Based on this information, it will provide you the name and website of your state Assemblymember and Senator. You can contact them by phone or by email/letter. The contact information of each member of the Legislature can be found at the following links:

[California State Senate](#)

[California State Assembly](#)

PHONE CALLS

Call either the legislator’s district or Capitol office. During the call, expect to speak to a staff member, not the legislator, and provide your contact information. Explain why you are calling and what you’d like the legislator to do. **When possible, share your personal experiences** about the value of 4-H and/or your local Farm Advisors. Thank them for their time and if you can follow up, call back again!

EMAIL OR LETTERS

On the next two pages you will find talking points and a form letter that you can fill in and either email or mail that letter to your state Assemblymember or Senator!

TALKING POINTS

Why do we need 4-H and Farm Advisors?

4-H Highlights

- 4-H provides opportunities to nearly 155,000 California students aged 5-19. Programs focus on STEM, robotics, leadership development, civic engagement, public speaking and beyond
- 4-H is diverse—80% of students are in urban or suburban areas. This is not just a rural/farm program—and Latino 4-H membership is 47%
- 4-H students are community leaders—4-H students are 25% more likely to contribute to their communities and 40% less likely to engage in risky behavior
- 4-H students have student success—4-H kids are almost six times more likely to go to college

Farm Advisor Highlights

- Since 1990, California has lost 55% of its Farm Advisor and Specialist positions
- Farm Advisors are trusted, knowledgeable contributors to the agricultural community, responsible for translating agricultural research to the field
- Farm Advisors specialize in pest management, cropping patterns, food safety compliance, water use and quality, rotational grazing, fertigation/composting, soil health and more!
- Farm Advisors are often the first call for new and beginning farmers and ranchers
- Small to mid-sized and specialty farms (like organic) rely heavily on Farm Advisors' expertise
- With the demands for growers to use sustainable practices, respond to climate change and produce more with less, we need Farm Advisors now more than ever.

What's at stake if we don't act now?

- The state has reduced UCANR's budget by 57% in the last two decades—this will continue
- 4-H and Farm Advisors positions will remain vacant, leaving large areas of the state unserved
- As 4-H and Farm Advisors become unavailable, low-income families and California's farms will be left out

Call to Action! Urge your legislator to support an additional \$20 million in the State Budget for UCANR.

(Month) (Day) (Year)

The Honorable (First name) (Last name)
(Room Number), State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: \$20 million Budget Request for UCANR

Dear (Assembly Member/Senator) (Last name):

My name is (your first and last name) and I am a supporter of the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) programs who resides in your district. I urge you to support Assemblymember Susan Eggman's request for an additional \$20 million for UCANR in the 2020-2021 State Budget.

(State why you support additional funds for UCANR. Describe the value of 4-H and/or your Farm Advisor. Choose up to three of the strongest points that support your position and state them clearly.)

(Include a personal story. Tell your representative why the issue is important to you and how it affects you, your family members and your community.)

Therefore, we ask you to save the 4-H Youth Development Program, local Farm Advisors, and all other programs offered and fully fund UCANR.

Sincerely,

(SIGN YOUR NAME)

Print your name
Street address
City, State, Zip code