



# *Opportunities for Research and Extension at* **Hansen Agricultural REC**

Located on 27 acres in the Santa Clara Valley 12 miles east of the Pacific Ocean, Hansen Agricultural Research and Extension Center (HAREC) has land suitable for lemons, avocados, strawberries, vegetables, and nursery stock. The property features an orchard with 158 trees grafted with 80 different hybrids of avocado as well as a collection of tropical and sub-tropical trees including various citrus, banana, guava, mango, passion fruit, persimmon, papaya and fig.

## **Center focus**

HAREC research focuses on methods for improving plant productivity, including leading-edge irrigation technologies and techniques, biocontrol of pathogens and pests, novel pruning techniques, and the introduction and evaluation of promising crop commodities. Additional research activities focus on issues in small-scale urban agriculture, organic farming and agritourism. The HAREC also has extensive K-12 education and community outreach and science literacy programs to increase public understanding of agriculture, the relationship of agriculture to the economy and our natural resources, and to support agriculture stewardship within our community.

## **The HAREC Commitment**

HAREC commits to the viability of long-term research projects. The constraints that might be imposed by a commercial grower or landowner are not present. On-site staff and conference facilities simplify hosting extension activities. Funds are available through the Thelma Hansen Fund for projects to support high-priority issues, increase public awareness, and contribute to outcomes of importance to agriculture in Ventura County.

## **Support for Research, Extension and Education**

- Agricultural technicians
- Farming equipment
- Education/outreach program development staff (K-12, College, Grower)
- Meeting/Conference coordination support
- Extensive network with local agriculture producers, educators and resources

## **Facilities and Services**

- Executive meeting space in the historical landmark Faulkner House
- Ample grass and tree outdoor event space
- Historical farm structures, equipment, documents and image library

Research requests for HAREC resources are screened by a research advisory committee. For more information about conducting research at HAREC, visit: <http://ucanr.org/sites/hansenagcenter/> (select Hansen Programs, Grants).



**University of California**

**Agriculture and Natural Resources** ■ **Research and Extension Center System**



## Recent research topics from HAREC:

### Exploring biological control options of the Asian Citrus Psyllid

Research is studying the use of predatory wasps to control the spread of the Asian Citrus Psyllid which carries the bacterial pathogen responsible for Huanglongbing, a disease that has decimated citrus production in many parts of the world and is a serious threat to California crops.

### Crop Rotation in Strawberries

Ventura County Cooperative Extension is characterizing soil-borne pathogens in strawberry fields cultivated using a variety of crop rotation methods to identify production processes that minimize pathogen infestation year-to-year.

### Evaluation of riparian ornamentals as vegetative filters for removing nitrates and phosphates from runoff waters

A study is evaluating California native plants for their nitrogen and phosphorus uptake. The goal is to improve water quality entering watersheds from surrounding agricultural lands.

## Hansen Agricultural RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER

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<http://ucanr.edu/sites//hansenagcenter>

### HAREC at a glance

27 acres

Deep alluvial clay loam to silty clay loam from marine sediment parent material. Perched water table with subsurface drains installed at a depth of 5 feet in the research area; 230 feet above sea level

#### Climate

Annual Mean Precipitation: 18"

Summer max. mean temp.: 75°F

Winter min. mean temp.: 48°F

Frost can occur in December and January

#### Soil series

Salina Clay Loam

"The Thelma Hansen Trust has provided my research programs with critical support over the last 20 years whether dealing with new avocado and citrus pest problems or exploring novel approaches to biological control of seemingly intractable pest problems."

—Mark S. Hoddle PhD, Department of Entomology, UC Riverside

"Presenters have been bringing the "farm" to our kindergarten classes for years. The children love the large photographs of the fields, tractor, and barn and seeing freshly picked lettuce, carrots, and corn. The presenters are always very enthusiastic and knowledgeable. We look forward to them coming every fall!"

—Peggy Celic, Kindergarten teacher, La Mariposa School

"As an educator, I appreciate the hands-on experience for the students and that all learning modalities are involved. The material also directly correlates to our curriculum. The volunteers who help on the farm and come into the classroom are well educated in what they are presenting as well as how to interact with young children."

—Deby Quandt, 2nd grade teacher, Loma Vista School

