

**Viticulture Advisor, Lindsay Jordan**—I began my job as the UC Cooperative Extension area Viticulture Advisor for Mariposa, Madera, and Merced counties in February of 2015, and have been excited to get to know the Mariposa region throughout the last year. I hosted a meeting for grape and wine professionals on March 31st, 2016. I spoke on managing fungal issues during a wet spring, and had John Roncoroni, UCCE Weed Science advisor for Napa County, come speak on managing weeds in premium wine grape vineyards. I've taken farm calls throughout the year, and am excited to continue to work with Mariposa grape growers. In 2016, I also continued my wine grape variety and rootstock evaluation research projects, in hopes of identifying the best selections for warm climates. I am located out of the UC Cooperative Extension office in Madera. Please feel free to contact me at my office phone number (559-675-7879 ext. 7209) or by email ([lmjordan@ucanr.edu](mailto:lmjordan@ucanr.edu)).

**4-H Youth Development Program Advisor, Russell Hill**—During the 2015-2016 program year Mariposa County 4-H efforts focused on Club delivery and school enrichment programs. Six clubs represent 182 youth and 63 adult volunteers. Well over 750 school-age youth, 15 teachers and 9 schools participated in short term projects including embryology, entomology (e.g.: butterflies, honeybees, praying mantis) and gardening projects. 4-H projects, events and activities are developed to help explore and improve skills in citizenship, leadership, science literacy and healthy living. Our 4-H youth are learning leadership and goal-setting skills and how to become community-minded adults through youth / adult partnerships.

Mariposa County 4-H youth participated in service learning opportunities, including a Bike-a-Thon, quilt making and a Veteran's Day Tribute in Mariposa County's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Field of Service event coordinated by Jaq Quinn, 4-H Member. Through its pledge of "hands to larger service," 4-H has historically given back to the community by encouraging young people and adults to volunteer.

In 4-H, service is commonly defined as the voluntary action of an individual or a group of individuals without pay. Service to the community – through food drives, raking the yard of an elderly neighbor, adopt-a-highway programs, teens teaching younger youth, teens mentoring children or youth determining community needs and helping solve community problems – helps young people learn caring, leadership and citizenship.

Mariposa County 4-H is, as our motto states, striving "To Make the Best Better". Using this as our goal, we are undertaking a program review and assessment that will lead us to be better servants to our community and to better serve the county clientele.

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### UCCE Mariposa County 2016 Annual Report

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Across California, the University of California's 64 Cooperative Extension offices are local problem-solving centers. We are the bridge between local issues and the power of UC research. Our county-based staff is part of the community – we live and work in the areas we serve.

More than 300 campus-based specialists and county-based farm, home and youth advisors work as teams to bring practical, unbiased, science-based answers to solve problems across California.

As part of the agricultural community, we help farmers develop more-efficient growing methods, solve pest management problems and develop crops and irrigation methods that use less water.

As stewards of the land, we help develop smart water-use strategies, develop wildfire education and help preserve natural areas and farmland.

As advocates for healthy communities, we promote healthy diets and exercise for better health, and help shape the citizens of tomorrow through the 4-H Youth Development Program.

And thousands of volunteers extend the reach of our work through the Master Gardener Program and the California 4-H Youth Development Program.

We work in full partnership with federal, state, county and private resources.

We are stewards, problem-solvers, catalysts, collaborators and educators.

We are UC Cooperative Extension.

*Our funding is from "cooperative sources". The University of California, Mariposa County, and the USDA.*

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#### Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor, Fadzayi Mashiri—

**Medusahead Control:** I continued monitoring the medusahead control demonstration plots where we used fall application of Milestone® herbicide as the control agent. Medusahead density declined in treated areas and treated areas were preferred for grazing by livestock more than the adjacent untreated areas. I hosted a field day on one of the sites to showcase the results, and discussed other methods of medusahead control emphasizing the benefits of using the Integrated Weed Management approach in controlling medusahead populations.

I also set up a second experimental site as a follow-up to the one established in 2014. In this experiment we are comparing the effectiveness of fall and spring applications of Milestone® on medusahead. Fall applications reduce medusahead by inhibiting seed germination, while spring applications are expected to control future populations by reducing seed viability. Preliminary results show that at 3oz/acre, spring application of Milestone can reduce medusahead seed viability. If our results continue to support these initial indications, spring application will make more economic sense for ranchers to adopt at 3oz/acre because it is more affordable, compared to recommended rates of 7-14oz/acre fall application.

**Forage Production Monitoring:** I continued to work with NRCS, collecting forage production data. In the long run, I plan to use the data for research that will help provide needed information for ranchers to make informed management decisions. In the meantime the data are being used for local drought determination by FSA. I bought a couple of weather stations to install at forage production sites. Having climatic data associated with forage production data, will overtime help us better understand the relationship between forage production and precipitation amounts and distribution. Having this information will help landowners better estimate appropriate levels of stocking.

**California Naturalist Programs:** The California Naturalist program educates California citizens about the ecology of the state's diverse natural ecosystems: how they work and the best management practices. After graduating they can apply the knowledge on their properties or educate others as they volunteer in a variety of roles.

I continue to work with UC Merced giving presentations on the ecology and management of working rangelands and leading field trips on rangeland and oak woodlands ecosystems for the program. My main emphasis is to show the trainees the important ecosystem services provided by rangelands due to land stewardship by ranchers and other landowners. For the field trip I cover topics including rangeland variability, drought, grazing, and rangelands monitoring techniques.

**Clover Trials:** I am part of a team of Advisors and Specialist carrying out trials on 11 clover varieties, to assess their rate of germination, growth and persistence potential in different parts of the state. Our overall goal is to come up with a list of clover varieties that perform best in different regions that we can recommend to landowners to use to improve forage production and quality.





# 4-H Youth Development Program

## Program Expansion-

**Yoga training for Teachers and 4-H Leaders**– The State 4-H Community Education Specialist, Anne Iaccopucci, held “Instructor Training” for 4-H leaders and local teachers so they could teach 4-H Yoga to Kids. Youth, in the 4-H Yoga Project, learn breathing exercises, physical postures, and mindful practices that help strengthen the mind and body.

**Meetings held in Greeley Hill and El Portal schools**– 4-H Staff, Donna Wice, and Russ Hill visited the two school sites and met with Principals with hopes to establish two new 4-H clubs or Afterschool programs. Both schools started using the Ag in the Classroom materials with their students such as praying mantis, ladybugs, embryology and butterflies.

## Highlights-

**Camp Tweety**- this weekend camp was held at a new location-Camp Oakhurst in Coarsegold. This is camp for 4-H members in grades 4-8th and also an outreach camp for non-4-H members. Workshops and activities this past year were BB guns, archery, swimming, climbing wall, water slide, tie-dyeing, campfire, & more.



**Ironstone Concours d'Elegance**- an Ironstone Foundation 4-H fundraiser where 4-Hers from the five foothill counties; Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Mariposa, and Tuolumne did presentations, impromptu speeches, had project displays, and handed out awards to the car winners. The 4-H members from the 5 counties also provided homemade cookies for the sponsors and car winners.



**Primary Day Camp**- for 4-H & local youth ages 5-8- Mariposa County 4-H Council held their second annual Primary Day Camp for the youngsters too young to attend regular summer camp-youth were ages 5-8.



Theme was ‘Super Heroes’. The event was held at the fairgrounds picnic area. To begin the day the children did ice breakers and had a healthy snack. The activities throughout the day were a Scavenger hunt, obstacle course, made Super Heroes masks, did a sponge toss and had a tug-a-war. They enjoyed a lunch of hot dogs, chips, and fruit. We hope to make this an annual event!

**School Enrichment program; Ag in the Classroom** –is a 4-H program coordinated with school personnel with use of selected 4-H learning materials as well as some California Ag in the Classroom curriculum as part of the school curriculum during school hours. They involve one or more sessions with activities led by 4-H Youth Development Program staff, volunteers, and teachers. In 2015-16, over 700 students along with 15 teachers at 9 schools, 1 homeschool and 2 Headstart programs were able to have a 'hands-on' learning experience with the following projects: Embryology, Butterfly Pavilions, Root-View Gardens, Ladybug Land, Praying Mantis, Composting, and more.

This program has been sponsored by Mariposa County Farm Bureau and Mariposa County since 2001.

**Fashion Revue**- this activity is for members in the sewing project to model their creations and also has a purpose:

- Provide educational activities for youth who are learning and growing in citizenship, leadership and life skills;
  - Inspire appreciation of clothing, textiles, consumer science, and personal development;
  - Introduce opportunities to extend youth leadership and communication;
  - Promote self-esteem through individual expression.
- The county winner(s) from this event has the opportunity to go on to the State 4-H Fashion Revue held at UC Davis in May.



**Judging Day**-The objective of judging day in the 4-H program is to help members grow in their ability to think, to reason, and to make logical and scientific judgments. 4-H members, leaders, and parents can participate in this event.

Some of the 4-H County Activities for 2015-16- Livestock Judging Contest at the fair, Presentation/Favorite Foods day, County Winter Fun Day at Tenaya Lodge Ice Rink, Memorial Day Parade, Teen Night, Summer Fun Day at Coulterville Park, and Achievement Night.

Partnerships with other organizations are with Mariposa County Farm Bureau, Mariposa County Health & Wellness, ICES, and Safe at Home.

## Donna Wice

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Find detailed information on the programs that we offer and upcoming events, as well as other resources.

# Master Gardener Program



## Educational Public Workshops, Events and Outreach

Provided 9 free public workshops on relevant topics requested by the public. They were:

- Pruning fruit trees;
- Invasive weeds;
- Properties of soil;
- Water conservation;
- Native pollinators;
- Two workshops on growing drought-tolerant native plants; and
- Two on gardening for food production.



Two plant and garden art sales:

- One in the spring time at the Fairgrounds; and the other in
- Coulterville during the fall.

Held the annual garden tour involving 5 home gardens with different themes. For example, one of the gardens demonstrated propagation techniques and each visitor received a plant.

Volunteered daily during the Mariposa County Fair and also provided an educational booth at the Farmers Market.

Maintain a website and FaceBook sites to educate and inform the community of gardening information and upcoming workshops and events.

## Focus on Water Conservation; Living with the Drought and Fire-safe Landscaping

Our volunteers began revamping the Mariposa Creek Parkway Native Plant Garden to add more colorful plants that will grow even during a drought.

Native plants have gained popularity as many are acclimated to our climate and to enduring drought conditions. We have also emphasized the benefits of sustaining necessary pollinators for a productive and healthy garden and yard through maintaining and planting natives.

We have focused on how to adjust to a warmer climate and drought conditions when planning and planting a vegetable garden.



Our Helpline Desk has continued to answer questions about dead and dying pines; the bark beetles; ideas for replanting after tree removal, etc.



Continue to be supportive of the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council, CAL FIRE and attend MCRCD's Forestry and Fuels Management Committee meetings.

## Support and Promote Tourism Activities

Changed the date of our popular annual spring plant and garden art sale to give our support to the Butterfly Festival and participate in the parade.

At the Agri-Nature Tour, we staffed an MG educational booth at the property of a Master Gardener who had installed multiple water tanks/rain-catchers demonstrating what can be done when one's well goes dry.

*Since 1995, the Mariposa County UCCE Master Gardeners have contributed over 50,568 volunteer hours to the gardening public. Those volunteer hours are valued at more than one million dollars!*

## Kris Randal

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