

UC
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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Cooperative Extension

January 2023
*Central
Sierra*

Amador County | Calaveras County | El Dorado County | Tuolumne County

Happy New Year from UCCE Central Sierra!

All of us here at UCCE Central Sierra are excited for 2023 and the many learning opportunities that the new year brings. We will continue to offer a wide variety of both in-person and virtual programming, with many new classes and events being planned.

Save the date for upcoming demonstration garden tours, an extended deadline for Master Food Preserver volunteer applications, and the next Post-Fire Resilience Workshop. We also have a couple employment opportunities available, so if you know of anyone looking for a career position, please share this information with them.

Cheers to a happy, healthy new year and the best of everything in 2023!

Sincerely,
JoLynn Miller



JoLynn Miller
MCP Director & 4-H Youth
Development Advisor

University of California
Cooperative Extension
Central Sierra Nevada
Multi-County Partnership (MCP)

**Happy New Year from all of us
at UCCE Central Sierra!**



Central Sierra Forestry & Natural Resources

Forests and woodlands in the Central Sierra Nevada are beautiful, extensive, diverse and owned by both public and private landowners. Active management is needed to reduce forest density and to help forests recover after wildfire. The goal of the Central Sierra forestry program is to empower landowners to overcome these challenges.

UCCE Central Sierra Welcomes Statewide Post-Fire Academic Coordinator

Katie Reidy joined UCANR in December 2022. Her role will include overseeing a post-fire forest resilience education program for private forest landowners. The goal is to help fire-affected communities begin the process of reversing the ecological, economic, and environmental impacts of fire.



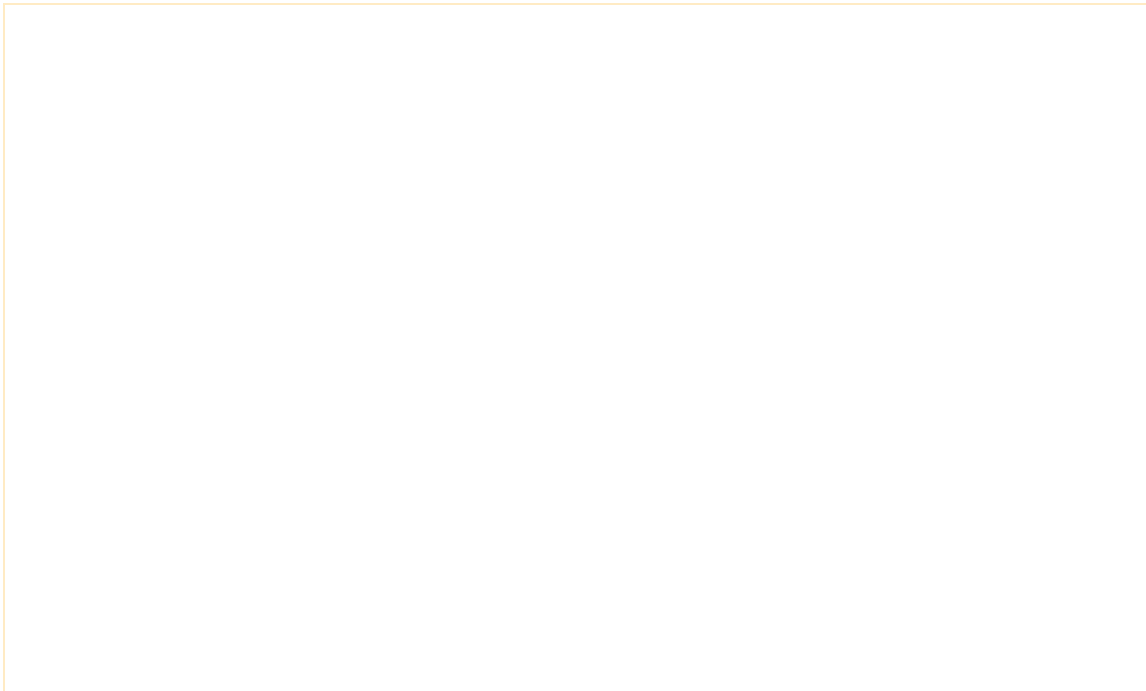
Katie arrives with a diverse background; when she first landed in California in 2017, she was an environmental educator in Yosemite National Park. Eventually, she moved to Plumas County and worked for the Feather River Resource Conservation District and began to understand the complexities of natural resource management and the implications of fire on the local landscapes. This propelled her to embark in graduate school at the University of Idaho where she earned a master's degree in August 2022, in Environmental Studies with a certificate in Science Communications and Environmental Education.

Katie has always been determined to combine her passion for ecology and forestry management with outreach and education. After personal experience with catastrophic fire, she is eager and ready to connect and assist communities as the Post-Fire Academic Coordinator.

In her free time, you can find Katie whitewater kayaking on local rivers, mountain biking, backpacking in the mountains, bird watching, or baking bread. Welcome, Katie!

Forest Research and Outreach Blog

Interested in learning more about forest stewardship, forest resilience or how to protect your home from wildfire? The UC Forest Research and Outreach blog (<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/forestrygmt/>) is an additional resource for landowners looking to increase their knowledge around forestry and forest management topics. Check it out!





Forest Research and Outreach - Agriculture and Natural...

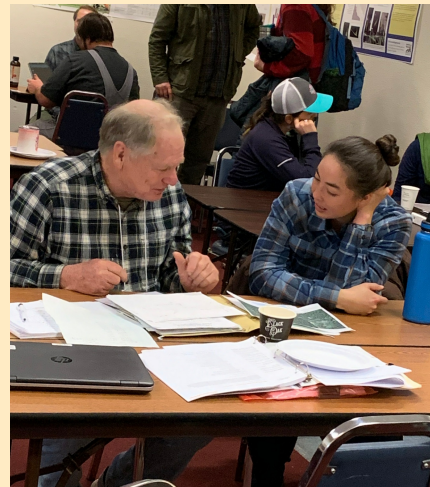
In a drought-prone region like Southern California, working with Mother Nature is not only wise but necessary, according to Janet Hartin, UC Cooperative Extension horticulture advisor for Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties, who...

[Read more](#)
ucanr.edu

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY | Sonora, CA Forest Stewardship Community Education Specialist

The University of California is recruiting for a Forest Stewardship Community Education Specialist to assist forest landowners to better understand, manage and protect their forests by developing a forest management plan, engage with natural resource professionals, and take advantage of cost-share opportunities that can help them meet their management goals. This position is located in Tuolumne County.

Forest Stewardship Community Education Specialists will use professional community educational program concepts to deliver standardized educational workshops to private forest landowners throughout California and apply established procedures and programs to address landowner needs via the [Forest Stewardship Education Program](#). First application review is December 13, 2022.
[More Information](#)



**Hosted by:**

University of California
Cooperative Extension

in collaboration with:

CAL FIRE

California Association of
Resource Conservation
Districts

United States Forest
Service



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Save the Date!

Register now for a California Post- Fire Forest Resilience Workshop

Online weekly Wednesdays 6:00pm – 7:30pm, February 1st
to March 15th and in-person field trips on
Thursday March 16th and Friday March 17th

Learn about managing forestland after wildfire:

- Increasing disturbances in Sierra Nevada forests
- Post-wildfire issues: erosion, invasives, hazard trees, fuels
- Time frame and steps needed for reforestation
- Landowner support groups and financial assistance
- Safety and erosion control for the short and long term
- Dealing with dead trees/ salvage logging/ slash treatment
- Reforestation/seedling orders/ climate change/ planting
- Dealing with competing vegetation and on-going maintenance
- Post-wildfire rangeland management
- Getting professional help and cost-share opportunities

Participants will use online resources on their own time to complete learning modules and short activities. Zoom meetings with all participants and presenters will take place once a week on Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm. The focus is on recent fires in the central Sierra Nevada. The in-person field trips will visit the Creek and Oak fires to see fire impacts, restoration needs and strategies and restoration projects on private and public lands.

Registration for the workshop is \$25. Sign up now at:

<http://ucanr.edu/post-fireworkshops>

For questions, contact Daylin Wade, [dwade@ucanr.edu](mailto:d Wade@ucanr.edu).



The Post-fire Forest Resilience Education Initiative is a US Forest Service funded contract awarded March 2022 through June 2025, to Susie Kocher, Registered Professional Forester #2874, University of California Cooperative Extension to help landowners affected by wildfires.

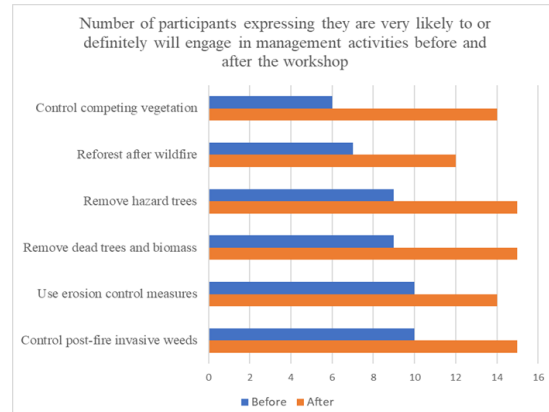
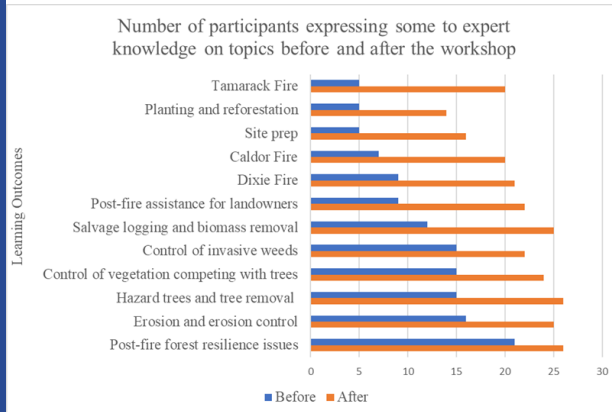
**Post-Fire Forest Resilience Workshop Update**

In September and October 2022, UCCE Central Sierra staff offered the first Post-fire Forest Resilience Workshop series, focused on the 2021 Caldor, Dixie, and Tamarack Fires. This workshop, funded by the USFS State and Private Forestry program, connects forest landowners to post-fire concepts, professionals, and resources to manage their own lands. The workshop consists of weekly online meetings and a field trip to the fire(s) of focus. The Fall workshop was attended by 20 landowners affected by wildfire, 21 public agency, non-profit, or university staff, 7 members of fire safe councils and prescribed burn associations, and 2 Washoe tribe members.

The first workshop series was very well-received, with participants reporting significant learning and increased likelihood that they will engage in post-fire management strategies presented in the workshop (see graphs below). Specifically, participants show the most learning gains about site preparation, planting and reforestation, as well as information about specific fire effects. The largest gain in post fire

strategies to be used by participants was in controlling vegetation competing with planted trees. 86% said they would likely modify their post fire management actions based on workshop content.

Staff are in the process of identifying workshop locations and collaborators for 2023. The next Post-Fire Forest Resilience Workshop series will be held in February and March 2023, focused on the 2020 Creek Fire and other recent wildfires in Madera, Mariposa, and Fresno Counties. Online meetings will be held Wednesday evenings February 1-March 15, 6-7:30pm, with field trips March 16th and 17th. Registration is open now at <http://ucanr.edu/post-fireworkshops>.



REGISTER FOR UCCE'S PILE BURN WORKSHOP!

Join our two-part class, which covers:

- Safety and liability
- Weather conditions and interpretation
- Permitting

There will also be **in-person field trips** for gaining hands-on skills!

Register for Part 1: Hand Pile Burning Fundamentals Webinar!

Date & Time: January 31, 2023 from 6-8 PM PST

Format: Free Zoom-based webinar

Sign up by January 30, 2023 at:

<https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=39518>

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The 4-H Youth Development Program offers educational opportunities for children, teens, families, and adults. 4-H helps young people to reach their full potential as competent, confident, leaders of character who contribute and are connected to their communities.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

4-H Program Representative

Placerville, CA

The Placerville Office is seeking a 4-H Community Education Specialist! This position's primary focus will be on conducting, managing,

and evaluating an education program to improve the environment of the schools and communities in El Dorado County. The position is a benefited career appointment that is 80% variable. Ideal candidates will have general knowledge of the 4-H Youth Development Program, experience with volunteer management, event planning, and a desire to teach and grow. For more information or to apply, email vmbullard@ucanr.edu.



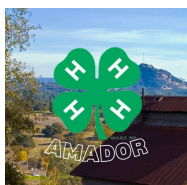
We're HIRING
4-H COMMUNITY EDUCATION
SPECIALIST 2
PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA
Apply Here:
ucanr.edu/About/Jobs/?jobnum=2049
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UC ANR is an equal opportunity provider and employer

If you are interested in joining a 4-H project like this or others, or if you are interested in volunteering to help the 4-H youth grow and achieve, please contact your [local 4-H Office](#) or email centralsierrafourh@ucanr.edu.

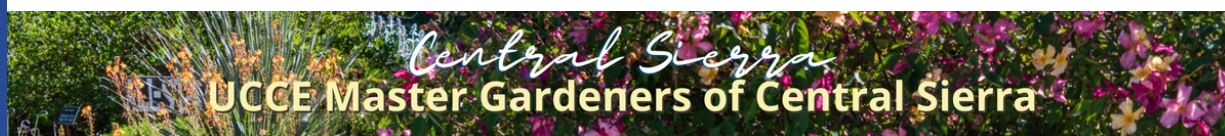


JOIN THE CLUB

Enroll **NOW** for the 2022-2023 Program Year!



Visit the UCCE Central Sierra 4-H Website



UCCE Master Gardeners are community members who have been trained under the direction of the University of California Cooperative Extension. Each volunteer has completed more than 50 hours of formal classroom training to provide practical scientific gardening information to the home gardeners.



Roots and Shoots: Teaching Kids to Love Gardening

It is never too early to introduce children to love gardening. Nothing is more heart-warming than to see a kid be amazed about growing a little plant. As the plant puts down roots, and the little green shoots sprout out

of the soil, children will learn and grow along with their garden. Encouraging kids to get interested in gardening is pretty easy. They learn by seeing their parents, grandparents, or friends lovingly tending to their plants. Whether it is growing food or a beautiful flower garden, kids love to imitate adults. This action sparks curiosity about nature, how plants grow, produce food, or flourish into blooms.



Obviously, gardening is a dirty, hands-on process—lots of fun for kids! The best way to start is by planning a simple project that is easy and rewarding. Prepare either a small growing plot, or even a large pot, in which to grow plants. Convenient access, good soil, lots of sunshine, wind and close proximity to a water source is important.

Easy to grow plants and flowers will be a good start. It will be rewarding and fun to grow colorful flowers such as French Marigolds, *Tagetes patula*. Another option, try edible Dwarf Nasturtium, *Tropaeolum minus*, which are great in a salad, since the leaves, and flowers are edible. Sniffing fragrant flowers, like *Dianthus caryophyllus*, commonly named Pinks, or feeling the soft, fur-like leaves of *Stachys byzantina*, or Lambs' Ears, awakens young senses.

Try growing a Kid's Pizza Herb Garden. Since kids love pizza, why not grow some of its most important ingredients? You could include planting and growing little cherry tomatoes, and various herbs like basil, parsley, onions, chives, peppers, or garlic. To carry out the theme, the garden bed should be a circle, shaped like a pizza, with a slice for each variety of herb. Your pizza culinary herb garden will need 6-8 hours of sunlight each day. When harvest time arrives, celebrate with a homemade pizza party!

By using the garden as a natural classroom, kids learn where food comes from by growing, tending, picking, and eating. Other lessons include pollination, and the status of insects in the garden. Buzzing, busy bees deserve our respect, as they travel from flower-to-flower pollinating plants. Kids should know that there are good bugs, ladybugs, bad bugs, aphids, and yucky, but hard-working critters like earthworms enriching the soil. Kids learn that everything has a purpose. The many teaching moments in the garden give kids a sense of responsibility and appreciation of our natural world. By growing vegetables or fruits, your kids will see firsthand how food is grown, and the importance of nutrition, and healthy eating habits.

Enjoy and treasure your time in the garden with your kiddos. As the famous British Garden Designer, Gertrude Jekyll said, "The love of gardening is a seed that once sown never dies." So go ahead, plant that seed in your little ones, and they will harvest the love of gardening for a lifetime.

By Pauline Atkins and Dolores Morrison, UC Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

UCCE Master Gardeners of Calaveras County - 2022 Accomplishments

- Spring Plants sales continued online until the weather turned to more spring conditions. Then the Master Gardeners were able to provide in-person plants for most months. In-person plants are always so much fun. Master Gardeners are able to help our clients pick out the best plants for their garden at affordable prices. We thank the public for their support!
- Major changes have been happening at the Demonstration Garden. Shade cloth continues to be installed at the garden providing a wonderful environment for our growing plants and for the public.
- We want to acknowledge and thank our Master Gardeners that work tirelessly in the Demonstration Garden to maintain and improve each garden vignette. Within the Demonstration Garden are sections designated for particular themes. Some of those themes are the Children's Garden, Fire Safe and Water Wise Garden, Vegetable Garden, Orchard, Mission Garden, Perennial Beds, Native Garden, Wild Garden, Heritage Rose Garden, and more.
- Master Gardeners continue to be involved in school gardens. The Master Gardener Team for Michelson Elementary continue their garden education for the third-grade class even after 20 years of instruction (even through COVID-19) under the leadership of Claudia Beymer. Jenny Lind Elementary under the leadership of Master Gardener Connie Roberson provides garden education throughout the year to each class from kindergarten to 6th grade.

UCCE Calaveras Master Gardeners are currently making plans for 2023, including the popular Kid's Day in the Garden event and there will be a return of a garden summer camp for children. These are just some of our planned activities, so stay tuned!



Enjoy First Saturday Garden Tours at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden
January 7 and February 4 | 9:00AM
6699 Campus Dr., Placerville

Even in the winter months, there are still a lot of interesting things “growing on” in the garden. Bring a travel cup of hot coffee and meet our Master Gardener at the garden gates for a tour of the 16 gardens every First Saturday through the winter. Here's the thing: **Tours start at 9 a.m. sharp.** If no

visitors show up, the docent will leave at 9:15 a.m. And if you would prefer to tour the garden on your own, we are open between 9 a.m. and noon. Email mgeldorado@ucanr.edu or [check the calendar](#) for more information.

Start Planning Your 2023 Garden!

Saturday, January 14, 2023 | 9:00AM – 12:00PM
UCCE Office Amador County | 12200B Airport Rd Jackson, CA

January is the perfect time to make your plans for the gardening year. This class will help you figure out what to plant and the best time to plant them as well as soil preparation. For rose lovers, we'll teach you proper pruning and propagation techniques. In addition, and in preparation for our February fruit tree grafting class, you'll learn how to prepare scions.

- Discuss what to plant for best results in Amador County
- Discuss best practices for preparing your soil
- Demonstrate proper rose pruning techniques for the coming year
- Demonstrate how to prepare scions for grafting on fruit trees

Fruit Tree Pruning Class

Saturday, January 21, 2023 | 9:00AM - 12:00PM
Sherwood Demonstration Garden | 6699 Campus Drive, Placerville

Do you know how to prune and train your different fruit trees from apples or pears to nectarines or plums, cherries, citrus, or persimmons? Master Gardeners will cover the basics of how and when fruit trees grow; how, when and when not to prune; and general sanitation practices to reduce pest problems. You'll learn the difference between genetic dwarfs and trees that are "dwarfed" to have trees that are easier to care for.

**Questions about your home garden or landscape?
Interested in upcoming classes and events?**

UCCE Master Gardeners are available to answer your questions!

Visit the UCCE Central Sierra Master Gardeners Websites

Central Sierra UCCE Master Food Preservers of Central Sierra

The UCCE Master Food Preserver program trains dedicated volunteers to assist the county UC Cooperative Extension staff provide up-to-date food preservation information. Our current program is active in El Dorado, Amador, Tuolumne, and Calaveras counties.



UC Master Food Preserver New Volunteer Training Extended

Did you miss the application deadline to become a UC Master Food Preserver in Central Sierra? It's not too late!

Training for accepted candidates begins on January 27, 2023. While the deadline has passed and we've completed most of the interviews, we don't want to turn away someone who wasn't aware of the opportunity. If you're interested in learning more about what the UC Master Food Preserver Program is and what our volunteers do, please watch the recording of our online informational meeting. The recording is one hour. Attendance or viewing of the information meeting is a mandatory pre-requisite to apply.

For information about submitting an application after the December 4th deadline, please contact the appropriate program coordinator:

- **Amador/Calaveras/El Dorado County Residents:** Sue Mosbacher, smosbacher@ucanr.edu
- **Tuolumne County Residents:** Sheri Mace, smace@ucanr.edu

Bring Your Own Pressure Canner Workshop January 13, 2023 | 6:30-8:30PM | UCCE Sacramento

Do you have a pressure canner but have either never used it or are afraid to use it? Did someone give you a brand new pressure canner as a holiday gift?

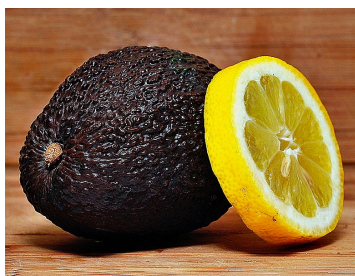
If so, bring your pressure canner to this class and practice using it under the guidance of experienced UCCE Master Food Preserver volunteers. (If you have a Presto dial-gauge canner, we'll also test the gauge.) We'll give you help sheets on how to use and maintain your pressure canner, and walk you through the entire pressure canning process. You'll leave with a jar of beautifully canned colored water as proof that your pressure canner works and you can use it.



Pressure canning opens up a fabulous world of broth, soups, meats, and vegetables that you can use in meals throughout the year. You've got a pressure canner; use it!

Note: The National Center for Home Food Preservation does not recommend electric pressure canners (like InstantPot). We cannot instruct using that kind of equipment.

Cost \$15.00, registration required. [Click here to register before Jan. 11th to reserve your spot](#) Learn a new skill this year, registration may include up to 2 people per canner.



Citrus and Avocados

January 18, 2023 | 6:30 - 8:00PM | via ZOOM

Join the UC Master Food Preservers of Sacramento County for a FREE virtual Zoom evening to learn about preserving citrus and avocados with emphasis on boiling water bath canning. Class is free, but registration is required. [Register Here](#)

Make and Take Workshop: Pressure Canned Soup

January 21, 2023 | 9:00AM - 1:00PM | UCCE Amador County

As the winter winds make our bodies shiver, it's nice to wrap our cold hands around a steaming bowl of hot soup. You can pop the top off a commercial can of soup and amuse yourself trying to pronounce all of the ingredients. Or, you can pop the lid off of a jar of home canned soup, confident you don't need internet access to understand what the ingredients are.

In this workshop you'll make a homemade soup and pressure can at least 6 pint jars. Participants will bring their own soup ingredients for 1 of 3 recipes selected at registration: Mixed Vegetable Soup, Chicken/Turkey Soup, or Hearty Chipotle Chicken Soup.



If you have a pressure canner you want to use during the workshop, you may bring it. If you do not have a pressure canner, one will be provided.

Class is limited to 9 participants. Registration fee of \$25 includes jars, lids, resource materials, one-on-one oversight by a certified UC Master Food Preserver, and use of UCCE Master Food Preserver equipment.

Pre-registration required! Deadline to register is Thursday, January 19, 2023. [Register Here](#)



Cole Crops

January 28, 2023 | 9:00AM - 12:00PM
UCCE Office | 311 Fair Lane, Placerville

Learn about Cole Crops (Cabbage, Broccoli, Cauliflower & Brussel Sprouts) when the Master Gardeners and Master Food Preservers team up for this class. The Master Gardeners will teach you how to grow these healthy veggies and the Master Food Preservers will teach you

how to prepare, preserve and enjoy these yummy veggies. Class is free, but registration is required as space is limited. [Register Here](#)

Ask a UC Master Food Preserver Central Sierra



[Questions About Food Preservation?](#)

Ask a UC Master Food Preserver online, any time! Plus sign up to get e-news, event updates and free class schedules delivered to your inbox each month.

[Subscribe Here](#)

[El Dorado County Website](#)



[Amador / Calaveras County Website](#)



Central Sierra Community Health & Nutrition

Through the CalFresh Healthy Living (CFHL) UCCE Central Sierra program, we teach free classes in local schools, community centers, libraries, and other public locations. Our classes show people how to choose, grow, cook, and enjoy affordable healthy foods, and how to make physical activity a regular and fun part of life. We also work to create environments where it's easier for people to make healthy choices, by supporting school wellness policies, community and school gardens, walking clubs, and more.



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Students Make and Serve Healthy Refreshments at First Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Event in South Lake Tahoe

The Boys and Girls Club of Lake Tahoe (BGCLT) hosted their first ever Holiday Tree Lighting event, and invited the UCCE Central Sierra CalFresh Healthy Living/4-H Youth Development Program collaboration to help!

Youth participants planned and prepared some healthy and delicious refreshments to share with community members that attended the event. In addition to healthier treats, students also provided an alternative option for sugary beverages with fruit infused water.

The fifth grade Teens-as-Teachers (TAT) and the fourth grade 4-H Student Nutrition Advisory Council (SNAC) club members worked hard to learn new food preparation skills and were excited to put them to the test. Students worked together to accomplish their healthy living goals and enjoyed being part of this new holiday event.



January Harvest of the Month: Butternut Squash

different family of squash.

The harvest of the month for January is butternut squash. Otherwise known as “canned pumpkin!” Okay, this is an oversimplification: Canned pumpkin is usually a mixture of squash from the same family as butternut—*Cucurbita moschata*, which includes butternut squash and some pumpkins (such as ‘Dickinson’). Common field pumpkins (such as ‘Howden’) and acorn squash are forms of *Cucurbita pepo*, a

So, while it can be used and eaten in all of the same ways that pumpkins can, it has a lot of versatility! Think Butternut Squash Tostada, with roasted pepitas, cilantro, and cheddar cheese on a tortilla. Or split in half, roasted, and stuffed with sausage, or ground turkey, or lentils and rice; steamed and mashed, or cubed and tossed with pecans and radicchio. You can even eat it raw if you shave it thin and toss it with a zesty dressing. Butternut squash is a great way to add color and fun to the table.

Butternut squash grows on a vine, tastes sweet and nutty, and is packed with vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium and iron. All around goodness.



Harvest of the Month Recipe: Shirini

This tasty, healthy, and versatile winter squash dessert will delight your dinner companions. Shirin means “sweet” in Kurdish. Shirini is a dessert commonly made with milk, dates, cashews, cardamom, and butter.

Squash donated
to Central California
Food Bank



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The Central Sierra foothill region produces a wide variety of agriculture commodities. The University of California brings research and outreach to area farms to assist with growing and cultural practices, pest and disease management, and more!



Small Farm Conference Coming UP

Published on: December 21, 2022 Registration is now open for the 35th annual California Small Farm Conference, which will be held in a hybrid online/in-person format Feb. 26-March 3, 2023. Hosted by the California Alliance with Family Farmers,...

[Read more](https://ucanr.edu)
ucanr.edu

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[UC California Naturalist Program](#)



UC ANR [Coronavirus and COVID-19](#)



California is reopening all activities statewide, but it is important to remember that the pandemic is not over and COVID-19 remains a health threat. As we plan and implement a return to in-

person ANR programs, we should stay informed about COVID-19 trends statewide and in our communities. Here are a few resources from the CDPH and other trusted sources.

- [Public Health Order](#)
- [Beyond the Blueprint](#)
- [Tracking COVID-19 in California](#)
- [COVID-19 Dashboards and Data](#)
- [Get Local Information](#)
- [COVID-19 Case Map](#)

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Accessibility: Should you need assistance or require special accommodations for any of our educational programs, please contact us at 530-621-5502.

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