

AGRICULTURE

Increased agriculture efficiency and profitability

UCCE Local Food Systems Advisor (Singh) promotes integrated pest management practices for the control of endemic and invasive pest and diseases. Evaluations after a presentation at the Folsom Lake college Collaborative Student and Grower meeting on the topic “Grapevine Powdery Mildew Management” indicated 93% of the attendees learned new information from this presentation and will implement what they learned.

Increased preparedness and climate resilience

Fuel management is a vital role in preventing and lessening wildfire risk. Using livestock to reduce fuels needs to be part of the strategy for dealing with wildfire risk. UCCE Farm Advisor (Oneto) research on Virtual Fencing (VF) with cattle between annual rangeland and residential houses showed forage reduced by 81%. In priority areas within larger forest allotments, VF collared cattle browsed the deer brush to 75% ± 9.19%, compared to 58% ± 19% by non-collared cattle across the rest of the range, demonstrating that VF can effectively contain cattle in areas to reduce fuels and wildfire risk



In this study, 37 cattle wearing Gallagher eShepherd VF collars grazed a 120' wide fuel break between annual rangeland and residential houses in Sutter Creek, CA. Forage was reduced by 81% (from 4,296 to 790 lbs./acre).

UC Central Sierra

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El Dorado County Snapshot | 2024



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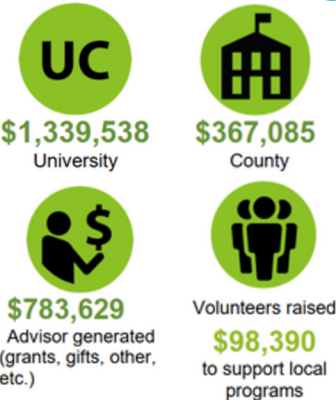
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UCCE Funding



*final numbers for 2024 year available in fall 2025

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Increased workforce retention and competency

Skills learned at 4-H events, such as economics and money management, will help contribute to California's economic prosperity. The Pollinator Program helps youth understand ecological issues while developing their teaching skills, contributing to a qualified workforce for California. Summer camp provided valuable experience in child education, positive youth development, budget, and event management to its attendees.



Amador 4-H Youth attending the California State 4-H Horse Classic, Elk Grove CA, photo by CA\$-H



731 youth in UC 4-H Youth Development Program

FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES

Improved management and use of land

UCCE Advisor (Kocher) assisted landowners to conduct prescribed burns on their lands through the El Dorado Amador Prescribed Burn Association to manage flammable landscapes. A Fire Fighter 2 training in May of 2024 for 17 people resulted in 12 issued red cards. One teenaged participant got a job as a fire fighter the next week. Other participants have developed burn plans and intend to burn their properties in Fall 2024.



An El Dorado Co. PBA member lighting the 2 acre prescribed fire under supervision from the trainer. Photo by Susie Kocher.

Protecting California's Natural Resources

Participants at CA Tree School in Placerville gained knowledge and skills to protect forests and work in the forestry field. Eleven instructors worked with 48 registered attendees to teach about forest diseases and invasive species; biomass and forest products; broadcast and pile burning; forest inventory; Avenza mapping; permitting for fuels reduction projects; and defensible space/home hardening.



An example of a pest identified by the advisor shown on tip of a noble fir showing the husk of gravid adult female Physokermes scale.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

Increased ecological stability of agriculture, landscapes, and forestry

In El Dorado County in FY24, the IPM Advisor (Patton) consulted one-on-one with over 30 growers of a variety of crops, including Christmas trees, grapes, stone fruits, and vegetables. As a result of these consultations, 20% of the growers indicated they will implement a pest management tactic they learned, including improved irrigation, monitoring, minimizing pesticide use, and inoculum reduction.

UC MASTER GARDENERS

Improved community health and wellness



UC Master Gardener volunteers reached 8,489 residents

In FY24, Master Gardener volunteers of the western slope and Lake Tahoe in El Dorado County provided more than 17,000 hours in service to the mission to improve the lives of people in their communities and over 2,500 hours researching and learning.

Seventy-one percent of surveyed class attendees reported starting/ improving growing edible plants, 60% of respondents reported starting or improving their practice of expanding the variety of edible plants they were growing, and 45% reported starting/improving reducing food loss.



Partnership with Mother Lode Reability Enterprises (MORE), a private nonprofit day program serving adults with disabilities in Placerville has been "transformative for clients and staff"

UC MASTER FOOD PRESERVERS

Safeguarding sufficient, safe & healthy food

UC Master Food Preservers, in partnership with the Food Bank of El Dorado County, provided food safety information and safe recipes to 1,966 members in our community. In a recent survey focusing on improved food safety and food security 100% of respondents indicated that they learned something new after attending a UC Master Food Preserver class and when asked if they felt better prepared to safely preserve and serve food in their homes after attending a UC Food Preserver class 100% of respondents said yes.



Master Food preserver volunteers participate in food bank elder outreach in El Dorado County.

UC CALFRESH HEALTHY LIVING

Promoting healthy people & communities

During FFY24, CFHL, UCCE educators in El Dorado County provided nutrition lessons to 1,578 participants over 336 session, totaling 284 hours of direct education lessons. In addition to hands-on nutrition lessons, CFHL UCCE staff were able to reach over 79,000 community members with indirect education resources.



1,578 people reached by healthy food and/or physical activity changes (CFHL, UC)

CFHL UCCE educators facilitated 7,357 individual tastings in El Dorado County. Students polled in classrooms reported that 58% students had never tried the item before. After completing the tastings, 79% students were willing to try to food item again and 73% students were willing to ask for the item at home. This data is significant as it demonstrates that a large proportion of participants are being exposed to new foods, and that a majority are interested in continuing healthy eating behaviors at home. (Cooke, N.)



Boys and Girls Club students learn about knife skills and healthy living at a cooking lesson in South Lake Tahoe. April 2024. Photo Credit: Cristina Luquin.