

**Rice Farming Systems Advisor and County Director: *Luis Espino***

Luis joined UCCE Butte County in February 2019 and focuses on rice pest management. For the past several years, armyworms have been causing damage in Butte County. To address this problem, the rice project has established an armyworm trapping network in the Sacramento Valley. Traps are used to capture armyworm moths weekly, and the results are used to alert growers and PCAs when to increase their monitoring efforts to avoid yield losses. As a result, growers have been able to prevent armyworm damage with timely insecticide applications when needed.

Nutrition Education Program: *Jona Pressman and Rita Palmer*

The CalFresh Healthy Living Program and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program reached 3,200 Butte County families through the implementation of nutrition, physical activity, gardening and food resource management education. This year was the 6th year UCCE became the hosting agency for the annual Growing Healthy Children Walk/Run event in Bidwell Park. This is a no-cost physical activity event that draws over 300 families to participate in the Walk/Run and the health education activities. Enloe Hospital, Ampla Health and other community agencies work in collaboration with UCCE nutrition staff to organize and host the annual Walk/Run event.

**Integrated Pest Management Advisor: *Emily Symmes***

The UCCE Butte County Integrated Pest Management Program works closely with growers and pest control advisers to address issues critical to the success and sustainability of agricultural production in our region. Recent research has focused on key pests impacting almonds and walnuts, including navel orangeworm, spider mites, walnut husk fly, and codling moth, among others. Through statewide coordination with fellow UCCE researchers, UC and CSU faculty, USDA scientists, the UC Statewide IPM Program, and industry partners, your local IPM program ensures that our Butte County crop producers have access to the latest information on innovative research and crop protection technologies.

Master Gardener Program Coordinator: *Karina Hathorn*

This year, the Butte County Master Gardeners volunteered a total of 5,587 hours, the equivalent of having two full-time employees. The volunteers staffed a hotline two times a week, where community members call in and get solutions to problems they are facing in their home garden. In the fall and spring, they organized and taught a series of free workshops about plant propagation, garden guide journaling, canning and pickling, native plants, composting, irrigation installation, and more. After the workshops, almost two thirds of attendants reported spending more time outdoors and using the methods learned in the workshops to conserve water.

**Orchard Systems Advisor: *Luke Milliron***

UCCE is working with orchard managers to find ways to save irrigation water, maintain yields, and improve tree root health. One approach being studied and promoted by our advisor is the pressure chamber, which allows managers to make irrigation decisions based on the water status of the trees. Attendees at a recent field meeting self-reported markedly increased understanding of the pressure chamber technique and interest in adoption. Basing irrigation on tree need can benefit orchard health, increase productivity and bring water savings.

4-H Youth Development Community Education Specialist: *Ryan Cleland*

In addition to providing educational opportunities for Butte County youth, the UCCE Butte County 4-H program was involved in Camp Fire recovery efforts, helping the Paradise community during and after the tragedy. Youth member Bailey Butler used the livestock experience she obtained in 4-H to help run the Butte County Fair livestock shelter, organizing volunteers and vets, caring for livestock, and treating injured animals. When asked why she volunteered nearly 550 hours of service, she simply said “I feel it’s my responsibility as a member of society to help out in a time of need”, speaking to values the 4-H program instills in young people.



Dairy Advisor: *Betsy Karle*

The dairy program serves producers and allied industry by conducting research activities to guide on-farm management decisions. Information about management practices for all types of dairies is available and programmatic activities are driven by clientele needs. On-going research projects include evaluation of animal health management practices, manure management for environmental quality & regulatory compliance, pasture quality and grazing strategies, and antimicrobial stewardship.

Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor: *Tracy Schohr*

Schohr is conducting extension, education and applied research focusing on livestock production, economics, and sustainable range and pasture management. She is developing solutions to the complex issues facing commercial livestock producers in the region. On a research project from this past year, Schohr is leading the investigation of water quality impacts from the Camp Fire on cattle health. Schohr also develops technical resources for livestock producers on local topics and hosts educational events such as the Camp Fire Research Symposium and the Butte county Carcass Contest for steer exhibitors from local fairs.



Forestry/Fire Science and Natural Resource Advisor: *Kate Wilkin*

Butte County has one of the most fire adapted communities in California, and UCCE helps Butte County enhance it. We facilitate discussions between decision makers, and researchers so that Butte County may implement the latest fire adapted community ideas from urban to wilderness areas. We also train many volunteer educators, especially those in UC Master Gardeners and Butte County Fire Safe Council, about the latest science for fire resistant homes and defensible space. In 2019, we’ve expanded our program to include youth fire science education through an interactive game for fairs and developing a Next Generation Science Standard curriculum for middle school students.

UCCE Butte County

Luis Espino, County Director

Office Administration:

Debbie Seagraves, Office Manager
Barbara Bechtel, Office Specialist
Susan Hedley, Account Clerk

2279-B Del Oro Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965

Phone: (530) 538-7201

<http://cebutte.ucanr.edu>



Support Group of Butte County UCCE

Created in 1999, the Support Group of Butte County UCCE works to promote and support Butte County Cooperative Extension programs and services. Any person or entity making an annual donation of at least \$100, or the in-kind equivalent, is conferred membership and is eligible to join its Board of Directors. Funds raised by the Support Group are used to support UCCE’s research and extension activities in Butte County.

Current Directors of the Support Group are: Phil Wilson, Nick Bertagna, Rory Crowley, Jed Walton, Paul McGowan, Kay Perkins, and Matt Stone.

