

UC Cooperative Extension Butte County 2022 Update



Rice Farming Systems Advisor: *Luis Espino*

The drought drastically reduced rice acreage in 2022. Statewide, only half the rice acreage was planted. The west side of the Sacramento Valley was where most of the cuts were made. Glenn county only planted 20% of their acres, while Butte County fared a little better with an estimated 75% planted. Overall, 2022 was a year of extremes. A cold spell experienced early in the season slowed down rice growth and resulted in some challenges with weed management and a slight delay in harvest. Later, we experienced a hot spell during grain fill; hopefully grain quality will not be affected. My program continued research projects on management of tadpole shrimp, armyworms, stem rot, aggregate sheath spot, and weedy rice.

Orchard Systems Advisor: *Luke Milliron*

This was the most active summer field meeting season in recent memory, with topics including new almond varieties being tested at the Chico State Farm, walnut rootstocks being tested in Glenn County, and hands-on pressure chamber trainings for growers. Amid drought, the irrigation management approach of “listening” to the tree’s water needs with a plant-based approach like the pressure chamber is leading to water and electricity savings while benefiting tree health and longevity. Walnut freeze continues to be a major focus, with a spring frost this year, and sudden autumn freeze damage from three of the four previous years. More and more growers are following the UC recommended practice of maintaining soil moisture in November and actively irrigating to provide frost protection if their system allows.



Integrated Pest Management Advisor: *Sudan Gyawaly*

The area-integrated pest management (IPM) program strives to implement an innovative extension education and applied problem-solving research program in the Sacramento Valley. During 2022, as a new IPM advisor, Gyawaly has been meeting and talking with growers and other stakeholders to learn about crops and pests in the region. The information collected during this period is crucial as he develops a need-based applied IPM research and outreach program for the major crops grown in the area. In the meantime, Gyawaly has been delivering IPM information using personal consultations and print publications.

4-H Youth Development Advisor: *Nicole Marshall-Wheeler*

In the 2021-2022 program year, the Butte County 4-H Youth Development Program served 491 youth with support from 220 adult volunteers. This is a growth of over one hundred youth and one hundred volunteers compared to last year. Additionally, our 4-H staff grew as we welcomed Nicole Marshall-Wheeler as our Butte County 4-H Advisor. Nicole will evaluate 4-H program outcomes and direct youth development research in Butte County. In 2021, Nicole’s research focus was on the 4-H program’s influence on youth’s public speaking self-confidence, as well as developing leadership programming.



Nutrition Education Program: *Jona Pressman*

The CalFresh Healthy Living, UCCE Butte Team participated in the California Ag in the Classroom Conference in Ventura last month. We did hands-on activities with educators from across the state, which included a workshop to demonstrate garden science activities that could be done in the classroom. We hosted a table where conference participants learned about agricultural commodities produced in Butte County; table guests then performed a Butte County agricultural-themed skit where they pretended to fly across the flooded rice fields as migratory birds. Our nutrition educators have been recruiting schools to participate in the Butte County Farm Bureau AgriBee and are looking forward to students participating in the final AgriBee competition on November 18th.

Master Gardener Program Coordinator: *Karina Hathorn*



Our Program is expanding, in many ways! In 2022, seventeen dedicated community members spent over 90 hours training to become certified UC Master Gardeners in Butte County. Our established volunteers kept busy by spending over 6,500 hours educating the public on research-based gardening practices. Volunteers dedicated their time and efforts to doubling our capability to grow more plants by extending the size of our hoop house at our Demonstration Garden. Our School Garden Program re-invented itself to become the Living Lab Program integrating Next Generation Science Standards into the garden lessons, taking the garden from a place to grow food to a place to learn and practice science. Our Public Education team continues to offer spring and fall workshop series. Visit our website to register for the workshops. Find us on Facebook too!

Dairy Advisor: *Betsy Karle*

The dairy program has focused on antimicrobial stewardship, animal health and well-being, and environmental stewardship in 2022. Research activities include building communities of practice on dairies, improving on-farm milk quality, managing arthropod pests, adoption of manure management practices, and decreasing antibiotic resistance. Results from studies were presented at the Golden State Dairy Management Conference, World Ag Expo, and in various industry publications. Contributions to scholarly literature include five publications discussing effects of antibiotic treatment on cow's microbiota, effectiveness of treatments and cow health, implementation of antibiotic use legislation, organic dairy disease management, and antibiotic resistance associated with fresh cow diseases.



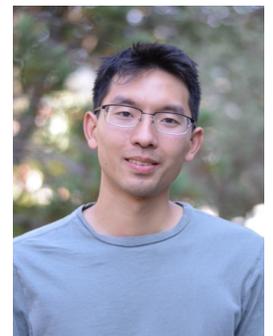
Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor: *Tracy Schohr*

Schohr is conducting extension, education and applied research focusing on livestock production, economics, and sustainable range and pasture management. This year she hosted online seminars on cattle health topics for over 400 livestock producers. Schohr manages the Commercial Ag Disaster Access Program with the Butte County Ag Department, a model for numerous other counties. Highlights of her research program include investigating post-fire grazing cattle distribution on public lands, rangeland drought resiliency and goat grazing effectiveness to reduce fire fuel loads. Schohr's program is developing solutions to the complex issues facing commercial livestock producers in the region.



Forestry and Natural Resources Advisor: *Ricky Satomi*

The Forestry and Natural Resources program is developing solutions to combat the growing loss of forest ecosystems from climate change and fire practices. During 2022, the program has focused on identifying local needs, providing technical workforce trainings, and developing reforestation improvement practices. Satomi has provided targeted forest stewardship, home hardening, GIS, and reforestation trainings to landowners and resource professionals. To tackle changing forest product market conditions, we are currently researching the potential for nontraditional wood utilization technologies in small diameter hazard reduction across the region. Satomi also works to expand youth engagement opportunities through the Forestry Institute for Teachers and California Project Learning Tree training programs.



UCCE Butte County Staff

Deborah Seagraves, Office Manager
Linda Darby, 4-H Secretary
Jim O'Donnell, Account Clerk

We have moved!

Thanks to the financial support of Butte County and the Support Group of Butte County UCCE, we were able to move our offices to a brand new-to-us building with more space to house our existing and new programs.



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