



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Cooperative Extension Mariposa County

UCCE Mariposa County

2013 Annual Report

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Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor

Since 2013 was my first year as the Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor, I wanted to focus my effort on learning more about the local production and ecological systems, as well as better understanding the specific production and management problems that the ranching community deals with. This way I would be able to develop relevant extension and research programs. In order for me to do this, I conducted a needs assessment to get feedback from the producers. The main issues that came up from the needs assessment included weed management, drought, livestock diseases, and forage production and management in annual grasslands and irrigated pastures. In an effort to start addressing some of these issues,



I established two trial sites to demonstrate how to control medusahead, an invasive grass, using Milestone (Aminopyralid). I plan to host a field day on one of the field sites in spring to discuss the results. I am also organizing a grazing ecology and management workshop for March 2014.

Fadzayi E. Mashiri

Fruit, Nut, & Vine Farm Advisor

In 2013 I taught two fruit tree pruning workshops in the Mariposa Area. These events which are organized by the Master Gardeners always “fill up” which shows there is a lot of interest in growing fruit trees at home. I enjoyed assisting local commercial growers as well with their questions.

Maxwell Norton



4-H Youth Development Program Advisor

In 2013 Mariposa County 4-H efforts focused on Club delivery and school enrichment programs. Four clubs represent 160 youth and 63 adult volunteers; two new clubs are being developed. Well over 1200 school youth participated in short term projects including embryology, entomology, 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.

I expect to see the depth and richness of Mariposa County 4-H Programs to continue to thrive and grow!

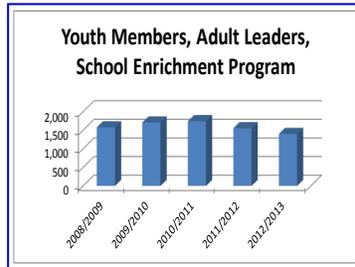
Russell Hill



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



4-H Youth Development Program



In 2012-13, over 1200 students were able to have a 'hands-on' learning experience with the following projects: Embryology, Butterfly Pavilions, Root-View Gardens, Ladybug Land, Praying Mantis, Mealworms, and more. This program has been sponsored by Mariposa County Farm Bureau and Mariposa County since 2001.

Presentation Day

4-H presentations are a special sharing time for members. Presentation Day gives 4-H members the opportunity to show others what they have learned in their current 4-H projects while being judged. If they earn a gold medal at County Presentation Day members have the opportunity to attend Regional Presentation Day.



4-H Celebrates 100 Years in 2013

All around the state 4-H members, and leaders celebrated the 100th year anniversary of California 4-H by having special events. At the Mariposa County Fair 4-H had a timeline banner to share 4-H years from 1913 to present. Mariposa County celebrated their 64th year in 2013. Some of the 4-H clubs had feature booths with 4-H family photos, items, and more from years past.

California 4-H Cooking Throwdown

On July 23, 2013 Saylor Cramer, Walt Palmer, and Reannon Broomfield from Mariposa County 4-H went to the California State Fair and took part in the 4-H Cooking Throwdown. They entered the International Cuisine competition. The team had to prepare a three course meal for the judges which they had to incorporate a secret ingredient which was goat cheese. The team made Sushi, a Japanese cucumber salad and fried wontons with bananas for dessert for the competition. The team came in second place and hope this competition will happen again at the 2014 State Fair.



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.

4-H Quilting Project

4-H Quilting project received a \$1,000 "4-H Join the Revolution of Responsibility" grant which they took the funds to purchase fabric, and other items to make quilts to give to the Mariposa Crisis Center, and CASA.



School Enrichment Program;

"Ag in the Classroom" is a 4-H program, coordinated with school educators where students are able to participate in a variety of agricultural projects as part of the school curriculum during regular school hours. This involves one or more sessions with activities led by 4-H Youth Development Program staff, volunteers, and teachers.

Some of the 4-H County Activities in 2013 were:

Ice Skating at Tenaya Lodge, Fashion Revue, Summer Fun Day at the water park, 4-H Livestock Judging at the Mariposa County Fair, Club Officer training, County BBQ and enrollment day, Butterfly Festival Parade and Mariposa County Fair Parade and members served at the Mariposa County Farm Bureau's Rib Dinner.



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Visit our Website:

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Master Gardener Program

About the Master Gardener Program (MGP)

As an arm of the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), the mission of the MGP is to disseminate research-based horticultural information to the general public.

Master Gardeners are members of our local community who become educators and volunteers by receiving 17 consecutive weeks of intensive training by UC staff, farm advisors, and experts on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices. We had 15 Mariposans graduate in 2013 as MGs bringing our total membership numbers to 56.

MGP Supports Tourism

We have been proud supporters of tourism and have continued to be involved with the Agri-Nature Tours and the John Muir Festival. Our program is also responsible for winning the bid to bring the UCCE MG Statewide 2014 Conference to Mariposa County next October. A few key volunteers along with the MG program coordinator, Kris Randal are serving as major planners on the UC Statewide Core Conference Committee. We have also held a meeting with the Yosemite/Mariposa County Tourism Bureau to help inspire the estimated 500 to 600 MG attendees and their families to stay longer after the conference ends. Kris's involvement with the conference planning committee has allowed her to obtain a two-year, UC grant funding her fulltime position as the program representative for Mariposa and Merced Counties.

Fire-Safe Education

Our connection and appreciation for Title III funding is emphasized at every MG event and workshop, by providing fire-safe information and handouts. We also staffed a fire-scaping booth at the Stockton Creek celebration and offered the public a workshop on landscaping with fire-safety in mind.

Free Public Workshops and Events



We offer free public workshops on subjects requested by the public. This year we had 7 workshops covering plant propagation, greenhouses, edible landscaping, and other subjects to help people learn how to grow their own food and other plants successfully. Other pertinent subjects such as water conservation, oak tree care, pruning fruit trees, and issues on fire-safety have and continue to be offered.

We also participated at the Mariposa County Fair where we set up and decorated the Horticulture building for the Veggie and Flower competitions; registered the entries; and staffed the building 12 hours each day that the Fair was open. Other activities include the two plant and garden art sales; the popular spring garden tour; educational



booths at the Farmers Market; the library plant project; two county-wide, helpline desks to answer gardening and pest questions. We also offer our MG calendars, which are packed-full of local gardening and natural resources information.

We have two native plant demonstration gardens: One recently developed at

the Coulterville Firehouse and the other, located along the Mariposa Creek Parkway, which celebrated the tenth anniversary of its inception. In turn, a beautiful garden guide developed by MGs and illustrated by a botanically-gifted MG artist was made available to visitors for free.

As a result of providing the public with so many informative events and workshops, in 2013 the MGP has volunteered, since its beginning in 1995, a total of 36,647 hours of service to the community of Mariposa. *The future looks bright indeed!*

Kris Randal

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Visit our Website:

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



For the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP) 2013 has been a year of data collection. Our scientists have been monitoring the effects of the forest thinning done in the Sierra National Forest in 2011/2012 along Highway 41 near Sugar Pine, California. The final evaluation of years of data will occupy our forest health and fire behavior team, water, fisher, remote sensing, and public participation teams for much of 2014. A draft report will be available by the fall, with a final report due by the end of the year. The integration of information from so many scientific disciplines into one final report is a challenge rarely attempted in the research world.



Stacking Logs. Photo submitted by SNAMP Wildlife Team.

Research on the Pacific fisher, a local nocturnal weasel, has provided some very helpful insights into their habitat needs. Our remote sensing team, using Lidar (light detections and ranging), has been helpful in answering questions about forest structure in valuable wildlife areas identified during the study; thereby helping the Forest Service understand what is important to protect during their management efforts.

SNAMP's outreach team will continue to organize Integration meetings for all teams to help them share the science emerging from SNAMP with interested stakeholders. Join us for one of these meetings, as they are a great opportunity to build our collective knowledge on the topics. You can find more information at <http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu/events/>. Briefs have been written for all the scientific publications that have come out of SNAMP (23 so far), to help make the information more accessible, see <http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu/news/categories/research-briefs/>.

SNAMP's Public Participation team has also written a guide to help improve facilitation/collaboration efforts in natural resource management, see <http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu/documents/574/>. Collaborative efforts are beginning to define our time, but often working together with diverse groups can be challenging.

Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project

SNAMP

Workshops have been held to share the team's best practices and will continue to be available during the rest of the year.



Two Pacific fishers on a tree. Photo submitted by SNAMP Wildlife Team.

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