



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Cooperative Extension Mariposa County

UCCE Mariposa County 2014 Annual Report

Issued February 2015

University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Celebrates 100 years of service to California

2014 was a big year for UCCE. It marked the 100 year anniversary since Cooperative Extension was established by an act of Congress called the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. The main goal was to create a community-based educational and research system to help farmers, homemakers, and youth apply the latest university research to improve their livelihoods. The program focus has changed over time in order to better address the changing needs of communities we serve.

The year 2014 marked 65 years since the establishment of the UCCE office in Mariposa County.

Our 4-H Youth Development Program now has 6 clubs, 163 youths and 60 adult volunteers.



Our Master Gardener program has 51 active Master Gardeners (MG). Since the program inception in 1995, the MGs have volunteered close to 41,500 hours to the county.

Over the years Farm Advisors have helped farmers and ranchers improve crop and livestock production.



We held two main centennial celebration events. The first one was the Day of Science & Service Open House, on May 8, 2014 which feature citizen science activities and information booths and a BBQ.

On July 26, we held our UCCE Centennial Celebration Symposium & Dinner, which featured 7 County, State and UCCE speakers including Mariposa County Supervisor, John Carrier and UC ANR Vice President, Barbara Allen-Diaz.



A total of 250 people attended these events.

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4-H Youth Development Program

Camp Tweety

This weekend camp, held at the Lions Camp Pacifica, is for 4-H members and also an outreach camp for non-members. Workshops and activities this past year were BB guns, archery, swimming, crafts, tie-dyeing, campfire, & more.



Ironstone Concours d'Elegance

An Ironstone Foundation 4-H fundraiser where 4-H members from 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 five counties also provided homemade cookies for the sponsors and car winners.



School Enrichment program

"Ag in the Classroom", is a 4-H program, coordinated with school educators to use 4-H learning materials 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. In 2013-14, over 1100 students were able to have a 'hands-on' learning experience with the following projects: Embryology, Butterfly Pavilions, Root-View Gardens, Ladybug Land, Praying Mantis, Silkworms, Mealworms, and more. 4-H Coordinator and the Junior Master Gardener 4-H volunteer attended the Ag in the Classroom Conference in October 2014 to obtain new materials and ideas to share with local teachers and students. This program has been sponsored by Mariposa County Farm Bureau and Mariposa County since 2001.

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Visit our Website:

http://cemariposa.ucanr.edu/4-H_Program/

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

Fashion Revue

This activity is for members in the sewing project to model their creations and also has a purpose.

- Provide educational activities for youth who are learning and growing in citizenship, leadership and life skills
- Inspire appreciation of clothing, textiles, consumer science, and personal development
- Introduce opportunities to extend youth leadership and communication
- Promote self-esteem through individual expression



The county winner(s) from this event have the opportunity to go on to the State 4-H Fashion Revue held at UC Davis in May.

Kid's Night

This event is with a special movie theme for 4-H members in grades K-6th grades. At this activity the members had dinner,



played games, did crafts, and then watched a movie and had popcorn. This year's movie and theme was "Frozen".

Judging Day

The objective of judging day in the 4-H program is to help members grow in their ability to think, to reason, and to make logical and scientific judgments. 4-H members, leaders, and parents can participate in this event.



Some of the 4-H County Activities for 2013-14

Presentation/Favorite Foods day, County Winter Fun Day at Tenaya Lodge Ice Rink, Memorial Day Parade, Teen Night, and Achievement Night.

Partnerships with other organizations are: Mariposa County Farm Bureau, Tobacco Coalition Program, ICES, and Safe at Home.



Master Gardener Program

2014: Year of the UC Master Gardener Statewide Conference

Along with Fresno and Madera Master Gardeners (MGs), our much smaller

group of volunteers, won the bid to hold the triennial statewide MG conference of 2014 at the Tenaya Lodge in Mariposa County. 625 MGs and their family members from all over California attended the conference and visited our county.



As the hosting county, the Mariposa County MGs had several responsibilities:

- Design local tours for the conference participants;
- Collect donation gift items for 625 welcome bags; store, fill, and deliver the bags;
- Contact vendors;
- Contact and arrange for local inspirational speakers;
- Coordinator provide educational presentation for conference attendees;
- Provide silent auction basket filled with local businesses promotional items;
- Participate in the market place to raise program funds.



Year of the 100 Year Celebration of UCCE

May 8, 2014—the day Truman signed the UCCE in 1914. We provided a free BBQ and collected “Be a Scientist” activity data, in which the public and schools answered questions on water conservation, pollinators, and growing food plants.

July 27, 2014, we provided a free Mexican dinner to the local public, as well as presentations by UC Davis staff, local Farm Advisors and County Directors—past and present—and local experts and partnering entities.

MGs participated at both events, helping to set up and work with food, providing educational booths focusing on the drought, fire landscaping, and local gardening issues.

Focus on Landscaping for Fire-Safety

- May 31, 2014 Fire Rally booth;
- Several public presentations on fire-scaping;
- Landscaping for fire-safety information at all MG events.

Focus on the Drought

- At the Fair focused on drought and water conservation;
- Advised many callers through our Helpline Desk on water conservation practices;
- Pine and oak tree workshop was popular answering many questions related to drought;
- Added water conservation tips and information related to the drought at all MG events.

Workshops & Events covering Mariposa and the North County

- Provided 8 free public workshops;
- 2 plant and garden art sales;
- Popular annual spring garden tour;
- Mariposa County Fair pre and post work at each day at that event;
- Had a booth at the Pow Wow on May 10, 2014 with 4-H.



This year, as a result from all of these activities, our industrious group of 51 MG volunteers reached out to 3,773 members of the public, while accumulating 4,572 hours of community

service. Since 1995, the Mariposa County Master Gardeners have contributed over 41,500 hours of volunteer time to our county members. We may be a small group, but we are mighty!



Kris Randal

Master Gardener Coordinator

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Master Gardener's Hotline:

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Visit our Website:

http://cemariposa.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardener

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



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Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor

In 2014, I organized a Grazing Ecology and Management workshop in collaboration with Natural Resources Conservation Service and Mariposa County Resource Conservation District, held at Catheys Valley. The workshop attracted over 75 participants. I also hosted two drought workshops, the first one provided ranchers with drought management strategies and the second one explored ranchers participation in US Drought Monitor mapping process.

I also started working with a group of ranchers to develop collaborative niche marketing projects that will gage ranchers interested in producing and marketing locally produced livestock products (i.e. grass fed beef, free range poultry and pork). The project is still in the planning stages and participants are discussing the ideal group structure, anticipated products, and standards.



Medusahead control trials were established on three sites, where Milestone was used as the method of control. Despite the low forage production due to

drought, medusahead density was relatively lower in the control plots compared to untreated areas. We also found that livestock preferred to graze in the treated plots compared



to the untreated areas, showing that the treatment improved presence of more preferred grasses. I hosted a field day at one of the trial sites to showcase and discuss the preliminary results with members of the community.

I gave several presentation covering topics such as drought management, rangeland weeds, role of pollination in natural resources sustainability and food production and livestock uses. Two of these presentations were given at local schools (Don Pedro High School and Sierra Foothills Charter School).

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Fruit, Nut, & Vine Farm Advisor

In 2014, I conducted a tree fruit pruning workshop in January. It was very well attended by people from all over the county.



Maxwell Norton

Fruit, Nut, & Vine Farm Advisor for Mariposa & Merced Counties

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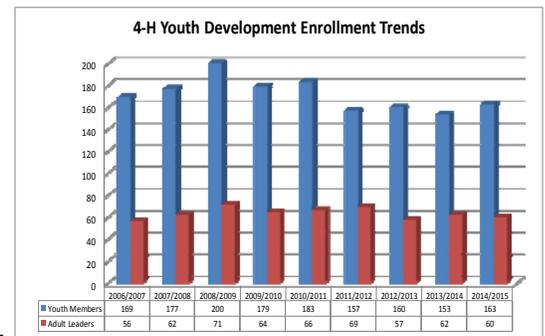
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4-H Youth Development Program Advisor

2014 was a year to remember in Mariposa County. 4-H efforts focused on six clubs and school enrichment programs throughout the county. Six clubs including, Bootjack 49ers, Catheys Valley, Clover Pioneers, Don Pedro Rattlers, Hornitos and Triangle 4-H Clubs are host to 163 youth and 60 adult volunteers.

Well over 1100 school youth participated in short term activities including embryology, entomology, and gardening as a part of our



school enrichment program. 4-H projects, events, and activities are developed to help youth explore, develop 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. Through experiential learning and leading together with adult mentors, youth focus their energy into their passions while also giving back to the community.

Russell Hill

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University scientists studying the effects of forest thinning on a species of small mammal did not expect to find evidence of toxic chemicals in the organs of their subject, the Pacific fisher. When post-mortem tests showed that fisher after fisher had the same significant amount of rodenticide in the liver, researchers looked not far afield and determined the origin of toxic chemicals to be illegal pot farms growing on public land.

Fishers are plush but rare members of the weasel family populating the forested area from California to Washington, including the Sierra Nevada. The nocturnal fisher has been illegal to trap since the 1940s and now the carnivorous creature has been the focus of recent conservation efforts as their habitat is continually threatened by logging and development.



Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP) teams have monitored local Pacific fishers to study all wildlife in a sort of canary-in-the-coalmine kind of way. The purpose of SNAMP is to inform adaptive management efforts in the forest for best land practices when it comes to fire prevention, water and wildlife. "Each team had a hypothesis as to what we would find in the seven-year study and none of them included rodenticide in any way, shape or form," says Anne Lombardo, SNAMP community liaison. The specialized SNAMP wildlife team has placed radio-tracking collars on about 100 fishers over the years, with around thirty collared at any given time, to learn the animals' habits and habitat.

In the course of the intensive study, some of the fishers died as would normally occur, for a variety of reasons including natural causes and predation. When the animals were studied post-mortem, researchers determined the presence of anti-coagulants indicating rodenticide in the livers of 90% of fishers observed. Searching for an explanation, they learned that dangerous chemicals including rodenticides, pesticides and fertilizer are frequently left behind on illegal marijuana grow sites.

Growers often mix the chemicals in or nearby streams where wildlife is abundant. Big bags, bottles and barrels are left to rot and seep into the land and water, polluting the environment and likely affecting animals up and down the food chain. Typically, authorities may bust up the illegal grows or the growers exhaust their resources and harvest their crops, but either way, nobody sticks around to clean up the mess.

Now, a group of agencies and individuals have banded together to clean up these old



Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project

SNAMP

toxic sites in and around the foothills, and gradually return the public lands to their original pristine state, pre-cartels.

"SNAMP discovered the rodenticide poisoning issue in the fisher population, and we knew we needed to find some money to clean up the raided sites," explains Lombardo.

"That's our contribution to putting science on the ground."

Recently, US Forest Service Law Enforcement and Recreation and Research personnel worked with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Law Enforcement Division & Wildlife Investigations Laboratory, the California National Guard, and the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew's Environmental Reclamation Team, to clean-up previously raided illegal marijuana grows on the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests.

I did 8 presentations to local groups regarding the scientific work of the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project around forest thinning efforts in the area and had a booth at a local Earth Day celebration. I put on a series of 3 facilitation/collaboration tools workshops up in Marysville and a Project Learning Tree workshop in Sonora. I provided two Integration meetings to share the science from our wildlife and water teams with the public. I continue to work with a local road kill group that originates from our wildlife research. I have

written several articles for local newsletters and blogs, most recently regarding our efforts to clean up residue poisons left in illegal marijuana grow sites in our forest that have been found to be killing our fisher. I also, co-wrote and received a \$25,000 grant from the Chukchansi tribe to continue these clean up efforts.



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Here you will find detailed information on the project and upcoming events, as well as technical resources.



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The UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) office operates under a cooperative agreement with the University of California, the County of Mariposa, and the USDA to provide services to county residents. This arrangement ensures programs are focused on addressing local issues. UCCE provides teaching, research, and public service activities for the community, extending the University's great resources of research and knowledge. UCCE serves the residents of Mariposa County by developing and implementing research-based programs in agricultural, home gardening, natural resources, and youth development programs.

UCCE Mariposa County office has many research-based leaflets available to answer many common concerns of residents.

UC offers many free publications at:
anrcatalog.ucanr.edu

You can also order any ANR publication on line.



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

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