



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources | Cooperative Extension Mariposa County

UCCE Mariposa County 2015 Annual Report

Issued February 2016

Across California, the University of California's 64 Cooperative Extension offices are local problem-solving centers. We are the bridge between local issues and the power of UC research. Our county-based staff is part of the community – we live and work in the areas we serve.

More than 300 campus-based specialists and county-based farm, home and youth advisors work as teams to bring practical, unbiased, science-based answers to solve problems across California.

As part of the agricultural community, we help farmers develop more-efficient growing methods, solve pest management problems and develop crops and irrigation methods that use less water.

As stewards of the land, we help develop smart water-use strategies, develop wildfire education and help preserve natural areas and farmland.

As advocates for healthy communities, we promote healthy diets and exercise for better health, and help shape the citizens of tomorrow through the 4-H Youth Development Program.

And thousands of volunteers extend the reach of our work through the Master Gardener Program and the California 4-H Youth Development Program.

We work in full partnership with federal, state, county and private resources.

We are stewards, problem-solvers, catalysts, collaborators and educators.

We are UC Cooperative Extension.

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



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Visit our Website:

<http://cemariposa.ucanr.edu>

Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor, *Fadzayi Mashiri*—

Medusahead control: In 2015, I continued working on the medusahead control demonstration plots established in 2014 where we used fall application of Milestone® herbicide as the control agent. There was less medusahead and more livestock grazing in treated areas compared to the adjacent untreated areas. I hosted a field day on one of the sites to showcase the results, and discussed other methods of medusahead control, emphasizing the benefits of using the Integrated Weed Management approach in controlling medusahead populations.

I also set up a second experiment site as a follow-up to the one established in 2014. In this experiment we are comparing the effectiveness of fall and spring applications of Milestone® on medusahead. Fall applications reduce medusahead by inhibiting seed germination, while spring application is expected to control future populations by reducing seed viability. Preliminary results show that at 3oz/acre, spring application of Milestone can reduce medusahead seed viability. If our results continue to support these initial indications, spring application will make more economic sense for ranchers to adopt at 3oz/acre because it is more affordable, compared to recommended rates of 7-14oz/acre fall applications.

Forage production monitoring: I continued to work with NRCS, collecting forage production data. In the long run, I plan to use the data for research that will help provide needed information for ranchers to make informed management decisions. In the meantime the data is being used for local drought determination.

Promoting ranchers participation at Society for Range

Management Conference: I collaborated with two other Livestock Advisors to apply for a grant that helped cover part of the cost for ranchers to attend the Society for Range Management Conference in Sacramento, in 2015. The funds supported a total of 89 ranchers from counties throughout the state. The recipients of the funds said attending the conference helped them network with other ranchers and professionals and some planned to apply and share the knowledge they gained from this conference.

California Naturalist programs: The California Naturalist program educates California citizens about the ecology of the state's diverse natural ecosystems: how they work and the best management practices. Graduates from the program can apply the knowledge on their properties or educate others.

To establish three California Naturalist programs in the Central Valley, I worked with UC Merced and Sierra Foothill Conservancy professionals to apply for a grant that partially funded 15 community members that were interested in taking the course. I gave a presentation on rangelands ecology and led a field trip on rangeland and oak woodlands ecosystems for the program hosted at UC Merced.



4-H Youth Development Program

1st Primary Day Camp for Youth Ages 5-8 - Mariposa

County 4-H Council held their first annual Primary Day Camp for the youngsters too young to attend regular summer camp. Youth were ages 5-8. The event was held at the fairgrounds picnic area. To begin the day the children had a healthy snack, then made their name tags from tree cookies and learned about tree rings. They watched a self-defense demonstration, had face painting, did a duct tape craft, an apple core craft and ran an obstacle course in the afternoon. They enjoyed a lunch of hot dogs, chips, and fruit then had a snow cone treat before going home. We hope to make this an annual event as it was well attended.



Memorial Day Parade & Wreath presentation -

VFW invites local organizations to be in their Memorial Day parade to walk to the local cemetery. Our 4-H clubs walk in the parade and present wreaths to honor our soldiers, current and fallen.



Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Bike-a-Thon - On Sunday, April 19, 2015 the 4-H Citizenship project held a MS Bike-a-Thon on Indian Gulch Road to the Hornitos County Park to raise funds for MS. All participants received a BBQ lunch and goodie bag.

1st Annual Field of Service Past & Present -

This event was a 4-H Emerald Star project coordinated by 4-H member Jaq Quinn from the Hornitos 4-H Club. This event paid tribute to all military, law enforcement, firefighting



personnel, first responders, and special people in our lives. Also honoring all those who served and all those we love.

Proceeds, two thousand dollars (\$2,000.), were donated to the Mariposa Museum and History Center.

Presentation/Favorite Foods/4-H Creed Day - This is an event for all of 4-H members to present, demonstrate, do a prepared speech or illustrated talk as well as make their favorite dish and be judged and possibly win a medal for their hat. A presentation is a method used to communicate an idea or topic by showing, telling, or expressing your opinion. A presentation may be a demonstration, a talk, a speech, or a skit. 4-H Presentations help youth learn to research, organize, and practice public speaking. Members earning a gold medal have the opportunity to go on to Regional Presentation Day and possibly State Presentation Day held at UC Davis.



Community Service - Through its pledge of "hands to larger service", 4-H has historically given back to the community by encouraging young people and adults to volunteer.

Service to the community helps young people learn about caring, leadership and citizenship. Our 4-H members and leaders



participated in the following events: Collected canned goods for Manna House, gave quilts to Crisis Center, gave valentine crafts and cards to Meals on Wheels seniors, cleaned up Catheys Valley's cemetery &

cleaned tombstones, had coat & blanket drive, donated Christmas trees to needy families, prepared dinner for homeless, had an activity booth



at Safe-at-Home and Mariposa Pow Wow, held Bike-a-Thon for MS, held Primary Day camp for youth ages 5-8, helped at the Ironstone Concours d'Elegance, helped serve and clean-up at the Mariposa County Farm Bureau dinners, Christmas Caroling, toiletry drive, party bag drive, provided meal deliveries to vendors at the Soroptimist Craft show, planted bulbs, raked and cleaned-up around Lushmeadows Club House, Easter cards for the Ewing Wing patients, participated in the Memorial VFW parade and presented wreaths, collected and donated Halloween candy to residents in town, sold candy to get new poultry cages for fairgrounds, participated in Christmas parade, served at community Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and a wedding reception.



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4-H Youth Development Coordinator

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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.

We have six clubs located throughout the county. Enrollment numbers are up for the 2015-16 program year; 175 members and 61 leaders. New County Wide Projects include; Automotive, Theatre Arts, Scrapbooking, Zoology. New for Don Pedro Rattlers; Horse & Dog Training projects.



Master Gardener Program

2015 Master Gardener Training Classes

After 17 weeks of intensive, hands-on trainings, we graduated 12 new Master Gardeners. Most of them have already logged over 50 hours of volunteer time and two acquired over 100 hours before the end of 2015! This is a milestone record, since the requirement is to log in 50 hours by June of 2016! This is a direct reflection and result of the dedicated planning of the Training Committee and also showcases the quality of our graduates.



Education on Fire-Safe Landscaping

- Participated at the May 30, 2015 Fire Rally, partnering with the Fire-Safe Council.
- Serving on the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District's (MCRCD) Forestry and Fuels Management Committee.
- Landscaping for fire-safety handouts at all MG events and workshops.

Education on the Drought and Water Conservation

- Partnered with the Mariposa County's June 6, 2015 workshop on the impact of the drought on well water.
- At the October 3 Home and Garden Show MGs provided an educational booth on water conservation.
- Partnered with the MCRCD (4/18/15) and Madera RCD (5/30/15) to answer questions about drought-stressed oaks at two Tree Mortality workshops with over 200 people in attendance at each event.
- Provided free-to-the-public workshops on gray water, water conservation landscaping principles, drought-tolerant native plants, rainwater harvesting and oak and pine tree care during the drought.
- Provided two county-based Helpline desks answering increased numbers of calls and inquiries related to drought stressed landscapes, trees and the bark beetles.
- On October 16, 2015 some MG volunteers took additional drought trainings in Parlier from the UC Statewide Master Gardener Program. This workshop focused on updated research on the drought called, "The New California Landscape".



Educational Public Workshops, Events and Outreach

- Provided eight free public workshops
- Two plant and garden art sales; one during the spring and the other in the North County during the fall.



- Popular annual spring garden tour held for the first time in the North County. Each garden had a theme such as, water conservation landscaping, vegetable gardening and water catchment.
- Shared a booth with 4-H at the May 9, 2015 Pow Wow.
- Volunteered each day at the Mariposa County Fair and hosted a booth at the Farmers Market.
- This spring, we researched and then set up a Mariposa UC Master Gardener Facebook page.
- Continue to update our MG website.



Celebrating 20 years of Volunteer Service to Mariposa County

- 2015 marks the 20-year anniversary of when Mariposa County first commenced the UC Master Gardener Program. Marilou Ellis received a resolution from the Board of Supervisors commemorating her long-time service to the community of Mariposa as a founding member of the Master Gardener Program.
- In 2015 the MG volunteers have contributed 4,314 hours while encountering 3,996 members of the public.
- Since 1995, the Master Gardeners have volunteered over 46,000 hours of service which equates to over one million dollars!



Mariposa County Master Gardeners presented a variety of annual awards to its members Dec. 13. Standing, from left, are Helen Willoughby-Peck and Elizabeth Gabriel; and seated from left are Barbara Baptista, Marilou Ellis and Holly Warner.

Our small group of 54 dedicated Master Gardeners packs a powerful punch!

Kris Randal

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Fruit, Nut & Vine Advisor, Maxwell Norton—I conducted a fruit tree pruning workshop in the Catheys Valley area. The class was heavily attended by gardeners from all over the county. Topics covered ranged from basic fundamentals to species-specific practices.



Maxwell Norton retired July 1, 2015 with almost 36 years service. Lindsay Jordan has already taken over duties for grapes and cane berries for Madera, Mariposa, & Merced counties. Since we don't have anyone lined up to cover tree fruit, Maxwell will continue to be available for answering questions and trouble-shooting problems.

Viticulture Advisor, Lindsay Jordan—I began my job as the UC Cooperative Extension area Viticulture Advisor for Mariposa, Madera, and Merced counties in February of 2015. I went to UC Davis as an undergraduate followed by Cornell for my Masters and worked at several commercial wineries before I took this position. My research background is in vineyard floor management and how it affected fruit quality, and understanding how growers can maximize their fruit and wine quality is one of my greatest personal interest in research. Before he officially retired, Maxwell Norton and I co-hosted a meeting for local grape growers about drought management strategies and conserving soil moisture on April 1, 2015. I also acted as moderator for the Hot Topics in Integrated Pest Management Workshop sponsored by Mariposa County Department of Agriculture and UCCE Mariposa held in Catheys Valley on November 18, 2015.

I look forward to getting to know the region better as I continue to take grape farm calls and meet local growers. I am located out of the UC Cooperative Extension office in Madera. Please feel free to contact me at my office phone number (559-675-7879 ext. 7209) or by email (lmjordan@ucanr.edu).

4-H Youth Development Program Advisor, Russell Hill—The University of California's 4-H Youth Development Program in Mariposa County has a long and rich history. Many of our county's public and private leaders in the community have been a part of the program whether as a member, a volunteer or other roles. 4-H projects, events, and activities are developed to help youth explore, grow 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. The 4-H Youth Development Program maintains a unique partnership of cooperative extension with the USDA, University of California, CA 4-H Foundation, and Mariposa County. These public partnerships, along with private benefactors, support the mission and direction of the 4-H program, advance the field of youth development, and enrich the programs delivered to youth.

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