Practical. Connected. Trusted.

# **UC Cooperative Extension in Napa County**



Serving California through the creation, development, and application of knowledge in agricultural, natural, and human resources.



## **Strengthening Local Communities**

UCCE Napa brings vigorous research in Viticulture, Specialty Crops, Food Systems, Integrated Pest Management, Human-Wildlife Interactions, Fire Science, Livestock and Natural Resources, Youth Development, and Community Health and Nutrition to improve local communities and lives of Napa County residents.

By working and living among those we serve, we expand UC's reach to engage all people and communities. We support practical, evidencebased solutions to everyday problems. Forming partnerships with public and private entities, we enhance stewardship, innovation, collaboration, and community education.

UC<br/>CEFor each \$1 invested in agricultural research and education,<br/>there is a \$20 return to the community.<br/>Alston, Anderson et al. (2010)





Viticulture professionals practicing communication skills

#### Viticulture

With \$72,900 in funding from the American Vineyard Foundation, we trained 29 viticulture professionals in communication and collaboration.

They learned how to ask genuine questions, how to navigate difficult conversations, and the importance of transparency and curiosity. They reported an increased ability to move stuck conversations, address difficult issues, collaborate with their co-workers and external partners. One participant had such impactful results with positive communication strategies that they "adopted the mutual learning approach to inquiry and collaboration in most aspects of their professional life".

#### The Year in Volunteers

Each year, UCCE volunteers donate their time to extend proven solutions. They empower Napa County residents toward sustainability by protecting our natural resources, adopting healthy habits, developing leadership skills, and fostering community. 276 24,753 Volunteers Volunteer Hours

**\$923,763** Value of Volunteer Service Hours



#### 4-H Youth Development Program

4-H empowers young people with skills to lead for a lifetime

104 adult volunteers.

**442** youth members participated in 4-H community club, camp, and short-term program experiences. 268 youth participated in 4-H afterschool education programs and hundreds more reached indirectly using 4-H curricula provided to community partners.

4-H youth  $4\times$ more likely to give back to their community





Member of the national Imagine Science partnership, a collaboration between 4-H, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, and Girls Inc. Utilizing grant funding, shared curricula, training, data and other assets, the program increases opportunities for STEM education in afterschool and summer programming to engage under-represented youth in STEM education, through high school and beyond.

### North Coast Emergency Food System



Multi-county project to increase the local food system's level of preparedness, aid recovery to disaster, and expand community resilience.

\$1.5 million received from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Regional Food Systems Partnership Program along with crucial matching contributions from local government, nonprofits and foundations.

North Bay Food Systems Advisor with Del Norte and Tribal Lands Community Food Council

Over **200** engaged stakeholders in collaboration.

#### Human-Wildlife Interactions Program

Research and extension activities that develop and disseminate practical management strategies for pest and beneficial wildlife in agricultural settings. The program will decrease economic damage from key agricultural pests and increase farm sustainability.

Over 1,200 participants reached at 25 field days or workshops covering topics ranging from ecological farming methods to Integrated Pest Management approaches.

**\$70k** in grant funding for research on biological control from native raptors. Additional research in vineyards conducted with Cal State and UC collaborators.



Top: An American Kestrel nestling from a nest box in a vineyard. Bottom: Field day participants learn about gopher trapping.

#### **UC Master Gardener**

172 volunteers 13.222 volunteer hours 125 public education events 46 newspaper articles



Provided free workshops on growing various plants, composting, attracting beneficial insects, and creating sustainable, climate friendly gardens. The MG volunteers responded to public inquiries via the helpline, staffed Farmers Markets and public service booths, and wrote weekly newspaper columns.



#### 2024 Annual Tomato Sale

#### UCCE Advisor-led Meetings, Courses, and Workshops

2,225 professionals and residents attended 188 UCCE-sponsored educational events to engage with current research on insect pests, grapevine diseases, water conservation, crop-livestock integration, specialty crops, and strategies to protect natural and built environments from wildfire.



**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA** Agriculture and Natural Resources UC Cooperative Extension

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Dr. Monica L. Cooper **Director & ANR Advisor**  September 2024

#### **Fire Science**

In collaboration with the Napa **Resource Conservation District**, the Fire Science Program created the Napa Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) in the summer of 2023.

The PBA currently has over 100 volunteers, and successfully conducted their first community burn.

The Napa Fire Science program is also partnering with the UC Master Gardeners and Napa Communities Firewise Foundation to provide outreach and education around home gardening and creating defensible space.