

Horticulture and Small Farms



Program Highlights 2019–20:

- Delivered 66 hours of training to 299 producers through short courses, hands-on and virtual workshops and classes.
- Assisted 140 farmers to implement sustainable practices such as integrated pest management, mulching, and pruning; that reduce water use, conserve soil, and manage pests with fewer pesticide applications.
- Provided tools and assisted 44 new and beginning farmers to plan their new farm businesses, increasing the probability of success.
- Reached 53,422 producers with research-based information through our Foothill Farming website, blog, and Facebook.

Placer and Nevada Counties farmers produce a wide range of horticultural crops; including fruits, vegetables, nuts, and nursery crops. These crops are produced on small family farms, which feed a growing demand for high quality local produce.

The small scale of most Placer/Nevada farms is a challenge to economic viability and stability of local agriculture. Specific issues include: training a new generation of farmers; helping working farmers build to scale; building business management and economic analysis skills; planning for operational continuity; and implementing sustainable production practices to manage soil, water, and pests effectively with minimal environmental impact.

UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) helps growers meet those challenges through education, technical assistance, and providing networking opportunities. We also conduct applied research to develop appropriate production practices for the foothills. Collaborative research on mulching in citrus orchards is helping producers manage the impacts of climate change.

UCCE develops and delivers training to area farmers on crop production, pest management, farm business, small farm economics, and beginning farming. We provide individual assistance to commercial producers through farm calls, phone, e-mail, and online consultations. Practical, research-based information on our Foothill Farming website is always available on demand. With COVID-19, we implemented virtual, online workshops, networking events, and consultations, which have allowed us to continue program delivery.



Contact info

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