

# From the County Director

UC Cooperative Extension – Placer/Nevada (UCCE) is a unique partnership between the University of California, the US Department of Agriculture, and the Counties of Placer and Nevada. Our UCCE advisors and staff provide research-based information and education to meet the needs of local residents and communities. While our 4-H, Master Gardener, nutrition, horticulture, and livestock programs traditionally provide hands-on learning with an emphasis on “helping people help themselves,” our advisors and staff pivoted to virtual program delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through a variety of virtual formats, UCCE helped local residents by providing information, education and training opportunities as well as technical assistance in these areas:

## **Livestock and Natural Resources**

- More than 850 producers, agency staff, and land managers attended 19 virtual and in-person workshops on topics ranging from beef cattle nutrition to prescribed fire.
- Our New Foothill Rancher newsletter, our IGTV Channels on Instagram (@flyingmule), our Sheep Stuff Ewe Should Know Podcast, and our Ranching in the Sierra Foothills Blog and YouTube channel reached more than 16,000 viewers/listeners in 2020–21.

## **Horticulture and Small Farms programs**

- 182 producers improved business viability and farm sustainability through virtual short courses/classes and field workshops providing 32 hours of training.
- 132 farmers implemented sustainable practices including mulching, cover crops, and/or integrated pest management practices that reduce water use, conserve soil, and manage pests with fewer pesticide applications.
- We reached 61,519 producers with research-based information through our Foothill Farming website, blog, and Facebook.

## **CalFresh Healthy Living, UCCE**

- 191 live virtual nutrition and healthy living lessons delivered to youth and adults.
- 250 lbs. of produce harvested and distributed to families during school meal distribution program at Rock Creek Elementary School.

## **4-H Youth Development**

- 20 4-H Clubs served 497 youth members in Nevada and Placer Counties.
- 169 dedicated adult 4-H volunteers facilitated program deliver through club meetings, community events, and county-wide projects.

## **Master Gardeners**

- Outreach and education activities, including 24 workshops, reached 10,000 people in Nevada and Placer Counties.
- 250 Master Gardener volunteers provided over 15,000 service hours, valued at more than \$375,000.

## **Ongoing Applied Research**

In addition to the educational and community development activities outlined above, UCCE advisors conducted a variety of locally-driven applied research activities to address real-world needs of Placer and Nevada County agricultural producers.

“Collaboration with county government, community partners, farmers and ranchers, and 4-H and Master Gardener volunteers allows us to provide these education and learning opportunities. We are grateful for their support and assistance.”

**Dan Macon | County Director, Placer and Nevada Counties**