

Snapshot of Tuolumne County 2017-18

University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

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The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) is the bridge between local issues and the research expertise of the University of California. The UCCE is a partnership between Federal, State and County government. Since 1947, UCCE has been providing practical answers to questions in agriculture, nutrition, natural resources and youth development in Tuolumne County.

Agriculture *Promoting practical, research-based solutions to assist local producers in the safe production and marketing of their agricultural commodities.*

- ◆ UCCE trained over 200 pest control advisors, farmers, ranchers and other pesticide applicators in the safe and effective use of pesticides, pest identification, pest management, and sprayer application technology. Trainings have increased grower knowledge of pest management and have resulted in production techniques that improve the sustainability of the farm as well as protect the regions natural resources.
- ◆ Received \$218,000 grant from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to train N. California's pesticide applicators to reduce drift near schools. Pesticide applicators will be trained in "best spray practices" that reduce drift while increasing coverage leading to improved pest control and healthier communities.
- ◆ Working with UC Davis researchers, tested 31 vineyard blocks across the foothills for Red Blotch virus presence in 2017- 69% tested positive for this new virus. Work is underway to try to understand the spread and effect of this disease on winegrape quality.



Vineyard showing symptoms of red blotch

Nutrition *Providing the community with tips for food safety, money management, and nutrition information.*

- ◆ Received a federal grant for \$772,561 to implement the CalFRESH nutrition education program throughout the Central Sierra region. 2.4 FTE are housed in Tuolumne County.
- ◆ Partnered with local schools and Public Health Dept. to start "Tuolumne County: Step It Up." 180 participants collectively walked 25,081 miles. The winning school was acknowledged by the district school board and have enacted a policy dedicating time every Wednesday morning to walk as a school.
- ◆ Collaborated with Tuolumne County Behavioral Health, Public Health, Social Services, and Office of Education on a multitude of programs, services and educational activities.



4-H Youth *Learn by doing activities, youth-adult partnerships, and research-based educational programs help young people enhance their leadership abilities and develop a wide range of life skills.*

- ◆ Established a new Summer Camp for youth. Camp is youth organized and led under the supervision of staff and volunteers. This model empowers young people to share as partners in decision making, camp planning and implementation, and camp leadership on a day-to-day basis. This year we doubled youth participation.
- ◆ Developed a new partnership with Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility. 4-H staff and volunteers have provided weekly project meetings on gardening, poultry, and embryology.
- ◆ Tuolumne 4-H hosted a regional presentation day for youth from five different counties.



Left: Youth at Mother Lode Detention Facility learning how to raise and care for a chicken as part of a partnership program with 4-H.
Middle: 4-H youth participating in the goat showmanship competition.
Right: Youth at the Tuolumne County summer camp participate in a arts and crafts activity.

The UCCE Central Sierra Team

Directory: http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/About_Us/Staff**Natural Resources**

Providing research and education in areas specific to sustainable natural resource management, invasive species management, and water quality.

- ◆ Received a \$10,000 grant to develop and extend a train-the-trainer program for tree mortality throughout the Sierra. Trained over 200 Master Gardener volunteers on tree mortality basics (mortality causes and trends, bark beetles, forest succession, tree removal and site prep, seedling selection and seed zone). As a direct result, volunteers can better answer questions from the public.
- ◆ UCCE Advisors and Specialists have assisted local ranchers with water quality concerns and grazing livestock on the Stanislaus Forest.
- ◆ Hosted reforestation workshops in partnership with CalFire focusing on re-planting issues after tree mortality for private landowners.
- ◆ Collaborated with Columbia College to offer California Naturalist Training for college credits.
- ◆ Offered educational workshops on weed identification and control and helped develop educational guidelines for complying with Senate Bill 88 and Assembly Bill 589 on water diversion.

Jodi Axelson, UCCE forest health specialist at UC Berkeley, shows a Master Gardener how to recognize signs of bark beetle attack at the Master Gardener training workshop.

**Master Gardener**

Local residents trained to serve as volunteers to extend UC research-based information about home horticulture and pest management to the public.

- ◆ This year, 23 additional volunteers graduated from the 13 week training course bringing the total number of volunteers to 115.
- ◆ Throughout the year, volunteers write a weekly gardening column in the local paper, staff a hotline, answer questions at local nurseries and hardware stores, farmers markets, and offered 28 free gardening classes at their demonstration garden at Cassina Alternative High School.
- ◆ Started a weekly radio show on the new Sonora Community Radio station (103.5 FM) KAAD-LP.org. 57 - thirty minute shows have run this year!
- ◆ Volunteers contributed over 4,700 hours this year in direct education to local residents.

**Funding**

The UCCE Central Sierra is funded between a partnership between Federal, State and County government. The cornerstone of the partnership is local county support. UCCE Central Sierra consists of a collaboration between El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties.

2017/18 Highlights

- ◆ Grants - **\$1,153,048**
- ◆ Federal & State Funding - **\$1,631,063**
- ◆ County Partners - **\$795,647**
- ◆ Volunteers raised **\$228,154** to support local programs!
- ◆ 4-H, Master Gardener, and Master Food Preserver volunteers donated 56,939 hours this year serving the local community in extending research based information. For a total value of **\$1,374,507**

