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 1960, UCCE has been providing practical answers to questions in agriculture, nutrition, natural resources and youth development in Calaveras 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.

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. 2.5 FTE are housed in Calaveras County.
- Collaborated with Calaveras Unified School District, UC Davis, and community organizations to implement a CDFA Specialty Crop Block Grant increasing knowledge and consumption of healthy, local produce.
- Partnered with Calaveras County Health and Human Services Agency, Office of Education, Senior Center, and other community organizations.
- Assisted with the support of two Food Corp Service members.

Master Food Preserver  
*Local residents trained to serve as volunteers to extend UC research-based information about home food preservation to the public.*

- Received a $145,691 grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, to provide research based food preservation classes for California specialty crops.
- Offered free classes to the public on a variety of topics including; water bath canning, dehydrating and freezing, meat preserving, jams & jellies, pickles & sauerkraut, cheese making, and much more!

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

- Master Gardeners partnered with CalaverasGROWN and local agriculture producers to host a certified Farmers Market in their Demonstration Garden at the Government Center.
- 83 Volunteers contributed over 2,065 hours this year in direct education to local residents.
- Volunteers assisted in maintaining local school garden sites where students receive hands-on, garden-based nutrition education lessons.
- Received grant from First 5 and Child Abuse Prevention Council to host Kids’ in the Garden Annual Event.
- Offered free classes at Demonstration garden on vegetable gardening, pest identification and control, proper irrigation, pruning and caring for fruit trees, and much more.
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 Gardeners 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 replanting issues after tree mortality for private landowners.
- Collaborated with new Resource Conservation District to offer conifer seedling give-away for landowners wanting to replant after the Butte fire or affected by tree mortality.
- 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.

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.

- Enhanced the annual Lego Build Up day by added a challenge portion which encouraged participants to use important skills like critical thinking, teamwork, and decision making.
- Altered the annual Home Arts Exposition by aligning it with Earth Day to explore different activities to attract a larger audience. This included adding activities like DNA extraction, pollinator projects, and sustainable living along with the traditional judging classes.

4-H Youth  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