

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 1955, UCCE has been providing practical answers to questions in agriculture, nutrition, natural resources and youth development in Amador 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

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 grazing livestock after catastrophic wildfires on the El Dorado and Stanislaus Forest.
- ◆ Hosted reforestation workshops in partnership with CalFire focusing on replanting issues after tree mortality for private landowners.
- ◆ 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.



UC Master Gardeners learn from experts about replanting conifer forests

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.*

- ◆ The 4-H program has taken on the leadership of putting on Amador Farm Day, a free field trip offered to all third graders in Amador County to learn about the importance of agriculture.
- ◆ 4-H and CalFRESH partnered at Independence Continuation High School to deliver a healthy lifestyles and mindfulness class to thirty students. Students learned the science behind making natural bath salts, body scrubs, and lip balm, in addition to learning about mindful eating and partaking in a yoga lesson.
- ◆ Over 150 youth and nearly 50 adults participated in 4-H during the year. There are seven community clubs across the county and dozens of projects that engage youth in varied learning experiences.



The UCCE Central Sierra Team

Directory: http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/About_Us/Staff



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.
- ◆ Amador CalFresh and 4-H have partnered with Jackson Elementary to create a garden space to promote garden and nutrition education.
- ◆ Direct nutrition education and physical education classes are provided to **527** students throughout the county.
- ◆ In partnership with Amador Unified School District, CalFresh offers school wide fruit and vegetable tastings, as well as lunchroom evaluations to create healthy lunchroom environments, impacting **880** students.
- ◆ CalFresh provided **18** nutrition education classes to help parents manage monetary resources, limit food waste through food preservation techniques, and create a healthy environment for their families.



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!
- ◆ Volunteers contributed **679** hours and taught **17** classes helping the community preserve local foods.



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, 12 additional volunteers graduated from the 15 week rigorous training course bringing the total number of volunteers to 60.
- ◆ Volunteers staff a help desk and educational booths at local farmers markets and the county fair where they answer questions from the public on garden and horticulture topics.
- ◆ Taught 24 free public education classes, a garden expo and plant sale and hands-on learning opportunities in the demonstration garden.
- ◆ Volunteers contributed over **3511** hours this year in direct education to local residents as well as volunteer continuing education.
- ◆ Established dynamic new partnership with Farms of Amador to bring school-age youth to local farms to learn hands-on about agriculture. In 2017, four schools were offered field trips and learned about olive production and organic vegetable farming.



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**

