

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 1918, UCCE has been providing practical answers to questions in agriculture, nutrition, natural resources and youth development in El Dorado 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 FTE are housed in the Placerville office.
- ◆ UC CalFresh Nutrition Educators partnered with seven (7) school sites on the Western Slope to administer evidence-based nutrition, garden and physical activity curricula reaching forty (40) classrooms this year; in addition, educators partnered with seven (7) means-tested sites including Motherlode Rehabilitation Enterprises, Summitview Treatment Center and Foothill Indian Education Alliance.



### **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 **1,676** hours and taught **27** classes helping the community preserve local foods.



*Betty Hess-Pierce, Master Food Preserver, emphasizes to the class at the El Dorado Hills Community Services District kitchen the importance of making certain your canned jams, jellies, conserves and chutneys are sealed tightly to avoid catastrophe in the form of deadly molds.*

### **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.*

- ◆ 4-H program offers a regional 4-H summer camp at Camp Concord in South Lake Tahoe. 110 campers participated in a variety of fun activities, such as crawdad catching, archery, and swimming.
- ◆ 4-H youth hosted a National Youth Science Day event at the El Dorado County Library that invited youth from the public to participate in developing, testing, and making their own fitness tracker.
- ◆ Youth leaders, All Star Ambassadors, represented El Dorado County at the sectional youth leadership conference, where they hosted a multiple session workshop on résumé building.
- ◆ 4-H has started to expand its service area to include the South Lake Tahoe Basin to provide in-school and after-school programming at two schools.



The UCCE Central Sierra Team

Directory: [http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/About\\_Us/Staff](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 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.

**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, 20 new volunteers graduated from a rigorous 15 week training course bringing the total number of volunteers to 170. Throughout the year, volunteers write a weekly gardening column in the local paper, staff a help desk, and booths at local farmers markets and county fair, 43 free public education classes, tours, field trips and open garden events at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden.
- ◆ Volunteers contributed over **9,900** hours this year in direct education to local residents and continuing education.
- ◆ Hosted one-day advanced workshop on The New Backyard Orchard to teach the public about current best practices in home orchard management.
- ◆ Offered a backyard poultry workshop for those interested in raising chickens.
- ◆ Between the months of September 2017 and December 2017 post public class survey respondents told us they are applying what they've learned from public classes resulting in 495,330 square feet of sustainable home landscapes and 133,210 square feet of home food gardens with sustainable gardening principles.



*Master Gardener volunteer, Dennis Miller teaches a fruit tree pruning class at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden.*



**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**

