

FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES

Building climate-resilient communities/ecosystems

UCCE continues to track participants who take advantage of a free initial site visit by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) upon their completion of the course.

Since 2020, 88 workshop participants adopted UCCE's recommended practice by initiating and completing the RPF visit. Together these forest landowners manage over 9,167 acres of forestland in California. Three Calaveras County landowners had their initial RPF site visit covering 175 acres.

The RPF visit typically leads to the development of a forest management plan and implementation of forest management activities, improving overall forest health and resiliency, and reducing the negative effects of wildfire.



Two local forest landowners learning how to use and maintain appropriate hand tools for vegetation management. June 10th, 2023 at Blodgett Forest Research Station, Georgetown, CA. Photo by: Susie Kocher



LIVESTOCK

Improved food safety

On November 13, 32 Beef Producers attended our Beef Quality Assurance Training and Certification, in Jackson. Livestock producers from 14 different California Counties attended this training. Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) is a program that provides systematic information to U.S. beef producers of how good husbandry techniques can be coupled with accepted scientific knowledge to raise cattle under optimum management conditions.

During this training, participants learned about the purpose and components of the BQA program, and how to work with cattle using their natural instincts. They also learned about how Biosecurity protects the cattle, the people, and an operation as a whole.



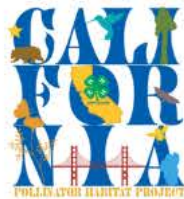
210 youth in UC 4-H Youth Development Program

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Promoting agricultural career opportunities

Calaveras County teens who attended the national 4-H Ignite conference met other 4-Hers from across the country and learned ways to get involved in science and agriculture.

63% of teens who responded to an evaluation survey said because of this project they are more interested in science and agriculture.



Eight Central Sierra youth attend the Ignite 4-H summit in Washington, D.C. to learn about pollinator habitats and develop a service project to implement in their communities. The goal for the next several months is to teach hundreds of local students about pollinators and increase pollinator awareness.

UC MASTER GARDENERS

Improved community health and wellness



33 new certified California Naturalists stewarding the environment

Master Gardeners through the years have been involved in all of the Calaveras Unified School District school gardens, Michelson School Garden, the yearly Agriculture Day at the Fair Grounds, and providing events for children at the Demonstration Garden located on the Calaveras Government grounds such as "Kid's Day at the Garden," "Summer Camp" in June, and a new activity called "Autumn Harvest Festival."

The original program was very simple, but through the years has expanded to include a vegetable garden, a native plant area, and also a native tree area. Every 3rd grade student for over 20 years has received an intensive garden education. Students are able to eat what they grow, which increases produce consumption.



Pictured: Calaveras Master Gardeners help students to plant a miniature garden.



Graph depicts the needs as shared by the respondents in terms of food safety. It was found that harvest and post harvest practices including the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) were of most interest to the growers.

AGRICULTURE

Promoting economic prosperity in California

A needs assessment survey, created by Hardeep Singh, Local Food Systems Advisor in the Central Sierra, aimed to address local needs in terms of crop production.

Results of the survey indicated a total of 31 complete responses, with 42% of respondents being low income/beginning farmers, and 29% being women farmers. The respondents comprised an almost equal proportion of conventional and organic farmers, including those practicing organic methods without certification.

UC CALFRESH HEALTHY LIVING

Increased effective public leaders

CFHL, UCCE had several projects in Calaveras County focused on building youth leadership skills, along with healthy life habits. In one project, teens from Calaveras High School learned to teach the 4-H Cooking 101 (Cooking Academy) curriculum to students at Jenny Lind Elementary during "Ag Day" events. Another youth engagement project focused on youth volunteers from Toyon Middle School being trained to teach the Learn! Grow! Eat! Go! Curriculum to younger students during the after-school garden program.

In the 6,400 individual tastings that were evaluated, 54% of students had never tried the food item before. After completing the tastings, 92% of students were willing to try to food item again and 87% of students were willing to ask for the item at home. This data is significant as it demonstrates that a large proportion of students are being exposed to new foods by their peers, and that a majority are interested in continuing healthy eating behaviors at home.



2,461 people reached by healthy food and/or physical activity changes (CFHL, UC)



CalFresh Healthy Living hosted taste tests and information booths at local community events in Calaveras County.



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UCCE Funding

\$460,002

University

\$173,037

County

\$436,964

Advisor-Generated
Gifts and Grants

\$41,634

Raised by Volunteers to
Support Local Programs



191

volunteers donated
9062
hours public
service – estimated
value of
\$ 338,194



2,595

total
educational
interactions
with the public



7

peer-reviewed
and audience-
requested
publications
and educational
materials



37

academic-led
workshops, field days,
and classes with
507
participants



10

news media
programs/
mentions

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Recruiting - Indigenous Disaster Resilience

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UC Central Sierra CE

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