

## FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES

### Improved management and use of land

Protecting natural resources and promoting economic prosperity are complementary to each other, and UCCE continued to work toward these goals by bringing together stakeholders in the biomass and forest products sectors. UCCE worked with local industry partners, such as Yosemite Clean Energy, Heartwood Biomass, and Kodama Systems, and community leaders on needs assessment and grants to promote locally sourced value-added forest and biomass products.

A network of business partners were developed over the past year and this network is expected to continue to expand through future outreach events, including in-person meetings, conferences, workshops, field trips, and research projects, etc.

It is estimated that for every \$1 invested in agricultural research and extension there is a return of \$20 to the community. Alston, Anderson et al (2010)



## LIVESTOCK

### Promoting economic prosperity in California

Some California livestock producers are interested in selling meat from the livestock that they produce from California rangelands to local restaurants, butcher shops and the local communities where they live. However, **access to a USDA Meat Processing Facility is limited and challenging in the Sierra Nevada.**



In August and November 2023, a survey was sent out to understand the needs of the Central Sierra livestock producers (focus on cattle, sheep, goats and pigs) for a new USDA Meat Processing Facility in the area. The survey was focused on Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, and Tuolumne Counties. **Survey results show that there is high interest for a USDA Meat Processing Facility in the Central Sierra,** and beyond. Future steps for this project are to decide the type of processing facility, size, location, and ownership. We are working on it right now. Then, we will have public meetings to talk about the project.

## 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### Developing a Qualified Workforce for California



**655** youth in UC 4-H Youth Development Program

Tuolumne County Ambassador and Leadership Teams participated in Mad About Science, a FREE Summer STEM Program hosted by TCSOS and held on the Columbia College campus. The program provides an exciting and hands-on experience for Tuolumne County students entering 4-9th grade, introducing them to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

The week-long event includes engaging activities such as building bridges, robots, launching rockets, creating slime, and making lava lamps. Mad About Science aims to foster a love for STEM subjects and inspire student's curiosity in the world around them. Our 4-H Team instructed facilitated Ozobot workshops for four 5th grade classes. Participants learned teamwork, coding and all about robots!



Ozobots Session at Mad About Science Summer Camp. July 2023, Columbia College

## UC MASTER GARDENERS

### Protecting California's Natural Resources



**190** residents reached by UC Master Gardener volunteers

The **Save our Polystyrene Project** is a project that takes place twice a year in Tuolumne County. It is an opportunity for the public to drop off polystyrene (trade mark same is Styrofoam) that would normally be entered into a landfill.

This event is an ongoing partnership with Waste Management in Sonora who hosts this event and Dart Manufacturing in Lodi, who picks up this product and repurposes it in their manufacturing plant. All polystyrene collected is recycled.

The Tuolumne Master Gardeners provide presentations every month at the **Master Gardener Demonstration Garden** located at Cassina Alternative High School.

The Statewide Master Gardener Office noted behavior changes on the part of attendees who attended these presentations.

- 43%** are expanding growing different varieties of edible plants
- 63%** have reduced their food loss
- 60%** are growing more edible plants
- 80%** are spending more time gardening or being outdoors



Pictured: Tuolumne Master Gardener giving a presentation at the monthly Open Garden Event

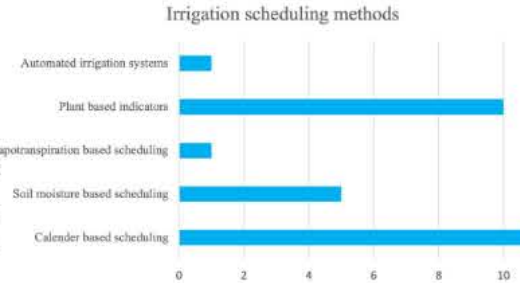
## AGRICULTURE

### Promoting economic prosperity in California

A needs assessment survey, created by Hardeep Singh, Local Food Systems Advisor in the Central Sierra, aims 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.

Sustainable food systems/organic agriculture emerged as the top priority, followed by insect pest weed and disease control, technical assistance with grant programs/regulatory compliance, and irrigation management.



Graph 1 depicts the various irrigation scheduling methods employed by the respondents. It was observed that automated irrigation systems and evapotranspiration based methods were the least utilized. This highlights the necessity for adopting water-efficient irrigation scheduling methods.

## UC CALFRESH HEALTHY LIVING

### Promoting healthy people & communities

In Tuolumne County, CFHL UCCE outreach to parents during Infant and Child Enrichment Services (ICES) "Children's Fair" community engagement event was successful in providing resources regarding healthy food and beverage choices. CFHL, UCCE educators reached 81 individuals with an infused-water tasting station, recipe cards, and activity sheets. Of the 81 individuals who sampled the infused-water, 86% reported that they either "Loved it" or "Liked it". This is significant as it demonstrates positive experiences and attitudes towards healthy beverage choices. Community members who attended this event not only sampled the infused-water, they were given resources to establish healthy habits by make the recipe at home.

CFHL, UCCE also provided nutrition education to schools in Tuolumne County. Harvest of the Month tastings were conducted at Columbia Elementary and Twain Harte School, wherein students had the opportunity to sample seasonal produce items in the cafeteria during lunch. These efforts resulted in 240 students at Twain Harte School and 310 students at Columbia Elementary taking part in Harvest of the Month.



CFHL, UCCE booth at the Infant and Child Enrichment Services "Children's Fair" event, offering nutrition information and an infused water tasting station. September 2023. Photo credit Lisa Uribe, Farrah Olson.



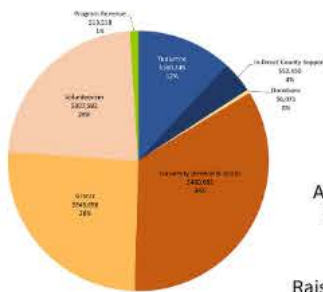
## UCCE Central Sierra Tuolumne County Office

52 N. Washington St.  
Sonora, CA 95370



Phone: (209) 533-5695  
Email: ccentralsierra@ucanr.edu  
Website: ccentralsierra.ucanr.edu

## UCCE Funding



**\$460,002**  
University

**\$212,695**  
County

**\$345,656**  
Advisor-Generated  
Gifts and Grants

**\$19,589**  
Raised by Volunteers to  
Support Local Programs



**172**  
volunteers  
donated  
**8,683**  
hours public  
service –  
estimated  
value of  
**\$ 308,767**



**2,131**  
total  
educational  
interactions  
with the  
public



**7**  
peer-  
reviewed/  
audience-  
requested  
publications



**37**  
academic-led  
workshops,  
field days, and  
classes with  
**507**  
participants



**10**  
news media  
programs/  
mentions



**17**  
new certified  
California  
Naturalists  
stewarding  
the  
environment

**Advisors**  
Cindy Chen, Woody Biomass & Forest Products  
(209) 533-6989 | cxnchen@ucanr.edu

Susie Kocher, Natural Resources and Forestry  
(530)542-2571 | sdkocher@ucanr.edu

JoLynn Miller, 4-H  
(209) 533-5686

Scott Oneto, Farms & Agriculture  
(209) 223-6834 | sroneto@ucanr.edu

Kitty Oppliger, Comm. Health & Nutrition  
(209) 256-9486 | koppliger@ucanr.edu

Mackenzie Patton Integrated Pest Management  
(530) 621-5551 | mfpatton@ucanr.edu

Hardeep Singh, Farms & Agriculture  
(559) 579-6065 | hdsing@ucanr.edu

Recruiting - Livestock and Natural Resources

Recruiting - Indigenous Disaster Resilience

**UC Master Gardener Staff**  
Debbie Powell, Master Gardener Program Coordinator  
209-533-5696 | dlpowell@ucanr.edu

**UC CalFresh Healthy Living Staff**  
Lisa Uribe, Nutrition Educator  
(209) 533-6991 | luribe@ucanr.edu

Farrah Olson, Nutrition Educator  
folson@ucanr.edu | (209) 533-6991

**UC 4-H Youth Development Staff**  
Erika Armstrong, 4-H Program Representative  
209-533-6990 | elarmstrong@ucanr.edu

**Office Staff**  
Gillian Garrett, Administrative Assistant II  
gigarrett@ucanr.edu | 209-533-6995

# UC CE

# Central Sierra

## Tuolumne County

### Snapshot | 2022 - 2023

