



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Cooperative Extension



UC Cooperative Extension of Mariposa County Quarterly Newsletter

January 2025

Welcome to our Quarterly Newsletter.

Welcome to the next edition of UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Mariposa County's quarterly newsletter! We are thrilled to provide this newsletter to connect with you and share valuable insights and updates from our diverse range of programs.

At UCCE Mariposa County, we are committed to serving as local problem-solvers, bridging the gap between community needs and the wealth of knowledge generated by the University of California's research. Our dedicated team of county-based experts lives and works right here, ensuring that our efforts are rooted in and tailored to our region's

unique challenges and opportunities.

This newsletter aims to keep you informed about our latest programmatic research findings, innovative outreach initiatives, upcoming events, and much more. Our vision is to provide you with multi-programmatic information that can empower you to make informed decisions, enhance economic well-being, and improve the overall quality of life in our county.

Together, we can work towards building a healthier, more resilient Mariposa County. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Fadzayi Mashiri Ph.D. (County Director and Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor)

Visit our website at <https://cemariposa.ucanr.edu/>

WE ARE HIRING A MFP COORDINATOR!

We Are Hiring!

Master Food Preserver Coordinator for Mariposa UC Cooperative Extension



Mariposa County UC Cooperative Extension is hiring a part-time Community Education Specialist for the Master Food Preserver Program. This position's primary focus will be on conducting, managing, and evaluating an education program to improve food safety and preservation in the community of Mariposa County.

This position is a contract appointment that is 50% variable and ends one year from date of hire with the possibility of extension if funding permits.

For more information and to apply please use the QR code, or visit:
<https://cemariposa.ucanr.edu/?jobnum=2897>

For general questions please call (209) 966-2417.

UCANR is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status.



University of California
Cooperative Extension
**Master
Food
Preserver**



**UC
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Agriculture and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension

ucanr.edu

To apply please click [here](https://cemariposa.ucanr.edu/?jobnum=2897)

Cover Crop Trials for Livestock, Gardener, and Small Scale Farms

By Sara Rosenberg, Regenerative Agriculture Farm Advisor

Project background

As I learn more about Mariposa County with the aim of trying to develop a program centered around improving land management which achieves environmental, economic and agricultural sustainability goals, it is obvious to me that Mariposa, though relatively small compared to other counties, is anything but simple. This is what I have learned so far: Mariposa County holds a mosaic of diverse land management operations including small, diversified farming, orchards, gardening and livestock grazing. The region faces challenges with poor soil fertility, overgrazed land parcels, low food access, and high climatic risk for fire and winter weather events. Mariposa County also faces challenges with resource limitations and limited human resources.

Regenerative management centers around integrative systems to capitalize on ecosystem services supporting natural resource conservation and supporting economic viability. In Mariposa County system integration with both small-scale crop production, either for homesteading purposes or market gardening, and livestock, has the potential to come together to increase regional food system resilience.

[Read More](#)



SAVE THE DATE!

March 5th, I will be hosting an Information and Listening Session at McCay Hall in Catheys Valley. This is a space to hear more about my position and discuss some of the challenges and resources required to support regenerative management in Mariposa County for different land ranchers, small scale farmers, and small-scale landowners. Lunch, coffee and snacks will be provided.



Legumes

- Nitrogen Fixing
- Low C:N ratio
- Recycles nutrients
- Increases microbial activity
- Increases soil porosity
- Breaks pest cycles
- Increases soil pH



Grasses

- Holds onto Nitrogen
- Scavenges nutrients
- Reduces erosion
- Suppresses weeds
- Increases Soil Organic Matter
- Higher C:N ratio



Brassicas

- Suppresses soil pests
- Breaks up soil compaction
- Improves water infiltration
- Reduces erosion
- Suppresses certain weeds
- Breaks certain pest cycles
- Moderate C:N ratio
- Provides pollination services

4-H Youth Development Program



4-H Updates

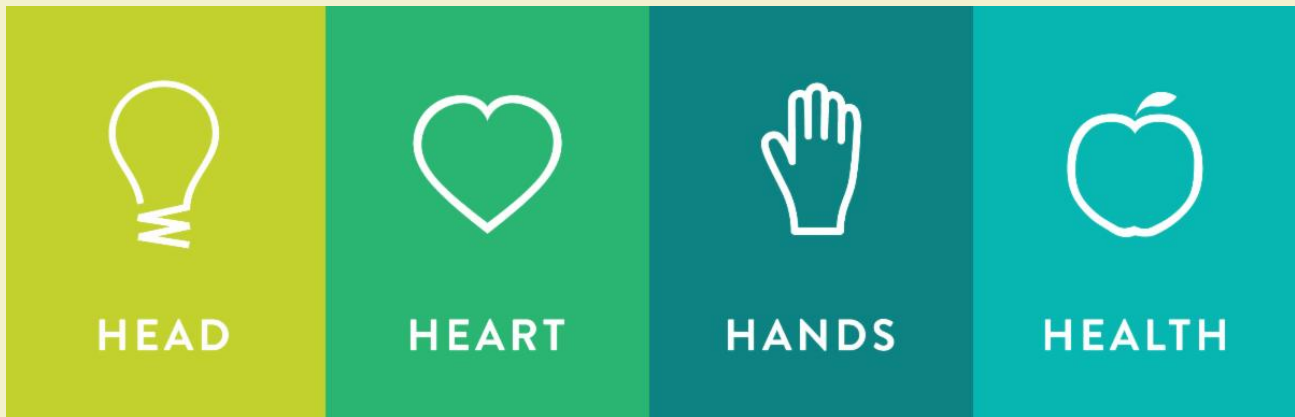
This quarter, Mariposa County 4-H members participated in a number of festive events and began the program year with officer elections and installations. We hosted the 4th annual Wreaths Across America event in Hornitos, as well as participating in the other three events held throughout the County. The Wreaths Across America event finds its

roots at Arlington Cemetery, where wreaths have been laid upon gravestones for more than 30 years. This single event has become nationally recognized and is now held in more than 4000 locations across the county, all in the honor of veterans.

Our clubs held Christmas caroling events at historic sites within the County and also decorated floats which were displayed in the annual Christmas parade in downtown Mariposa and Coulterville.

During the month of November, we organized and set up a display of nearly 300 American Flags for our 10th annual Field of Service event, which pays special tribute to all Military Men and Women, Emergency First Responders, Fire personnel, Law Enforcement, and Special People in Our Lives. Remembering those who have served, to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and to those that continue to protect our freedom. This event was held at the Mariposa Museum and history center in downtown Mariposa, with opening and closing ceremonies during the entire week of Veteran's Day.

In addition to many club level and countywide events, we have continued to recruit new volunteers and families and have begun our new County-wide calendar year.





Master Gardener Program

Preserving History One Rose at a Time

Tucked away in downtown Mariposa, Coulterville, Hornitos and other small communities in Mariposa County grow a reminder of our rich county history. Heritage roses (or heirloom roses) originated from the gardens of Europe or Asia. Derived from wild roses, these heritage roses became the ancestors of nearly every modern rose through the process of mutation, selection, and crossing. Today, we identify old garden roses discovered or hybridized over 100 years ago as heritage roses.



Heritage roses tend to have a number of characteristics that make saving them and their history beneficial. Heritage roses tend to have intense fragrances, cold hardiness, pest and disease resistance, hardy root stocks and low water requirements, making them perfect for the Sierra Nevada foothills. They are often found along roadsides and at old homesteads, ranches and homes throughout the foothills.



[Read More](#)

Master Food Preserver Program

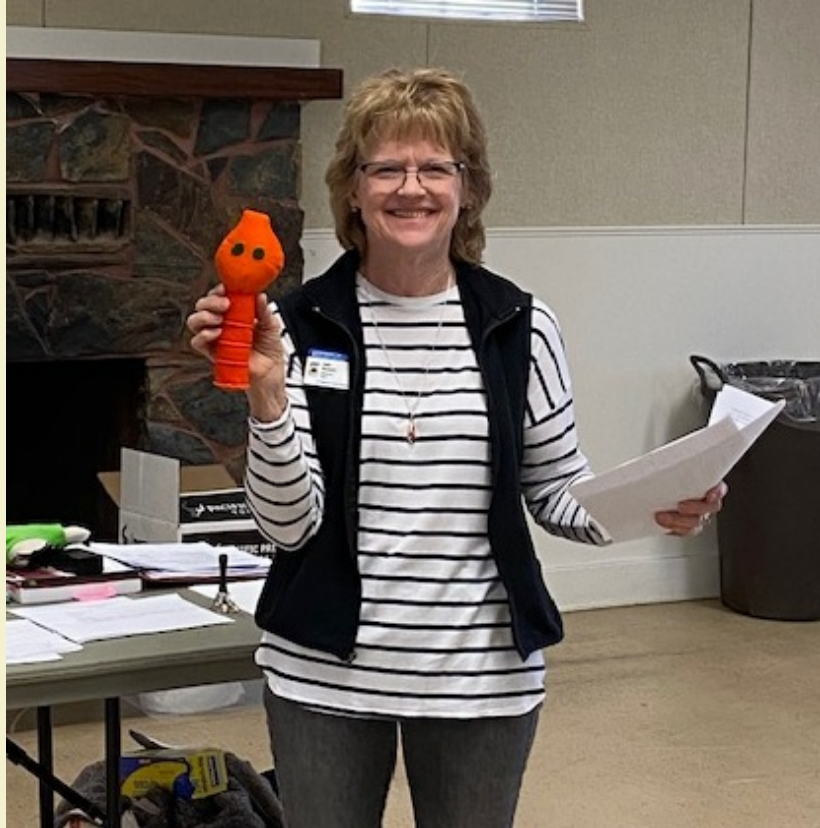


Photo:

Julie Richard, Mariposa Master Food Preserver teaches about clostridium botulinum using a prop of the rod-shaped bacteria.

UC Mariposa Master Food Preservers Program Begins the New Year with a Training Class

By Michele Nowak-Sharkey, UC Master Food Preserver

The beginning of 2025 started the Master Food Preservers program off with a new training class. The first lab was devoted to understanding why we preserve foods. Food preservation is important because it helps ensure a reliable food supply, reduces food waste, and makes seasonal foods available year-round. It also helps to ensure nutritional value and food safety.

Food Safety is a prominent factor of proper food preservation. Preserving food reduces the risk of foodborne illnesses by preventing the growth of harmful bacteria. One of the deadliest bacteria that MFPs learn to combat across the various food preservation techniques is clostridium botulinum bacteria.

[Read More](#)

Livestock and Natural Resources

California Rangeland

Sustainability Assessment (CRSA) a Self-Assessment Tool for Ranchers

*By Dr. Fadzayi Mashiri
(Livestock and Natural
Resources Advisor)*

I am sharing a resource which I believe is helpful to your ranching operations. The California Rangeland Sustainability Assessment (CRSA) is a recently updated version of the

Rancher Sustainability Self-Assessment (RSA), originally developed for ranchers in the central coast region. The CRSA, an online tool, can now be used by ranchers statewide. The CRSA is a self-assessment tool intended for use by ranchers across California to evaluate your management practices and assist in pinpointing areas that may need improvement and identifying those practices that are working well. The CRSA, is an online tool that provides ranchers instant ratings for different practices. Currently the CRSA website has five (5) modules (areas of assessment). The modules are Forage Management, Soil Health, Wildlife Management, Drought management, and Generational succession.



[Read More](#)

January 29, 2025: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) H5N9 Strain Detected for the First Time in California, A Different Strain than H5N1



A commercial duck flock in Merced County, confirmed to have H5N1 bird flu on December 14, 2024, received secondary testing and the final report on January 13, 2025 confirmed the presence of a different, additional strain of bird flu---H5N9. This was reported to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) per protocol and published on January 24, 2025.

[Read More](#)

New Cattle ID requirements – What has Changed?

Dr. Gabriele Maier, Professor of Extension, Beef Cattle Herd Health and Production, UC Davis

Dr. Kelsi Williams, Environmental Scientist, California Department of Food and Agriculture

Dr. Kavishti Kokaram, Supervising Veterinarian, California Department of Food and Agriculture



As of April 25, 2024, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) updated the federal rules for cattle and bison identification for **interstate movements** (9 CFR Part 86.4). One of the most important changes is that as of November 5, 2024, NUES eartags (silverbrite tags and Bangs tags) will no longer be recognized as official identification for interstate movement of cattle and bison. The move to electronic ID will allow for faster and more accurate tracing of cattle movements, which becomes crucial during an animal disease outbreak and reassures trade partners the safety and security of the US food supply. The United States Department of Agriculture has long been discussing the move to electronic IDs in cattle and bison to aid in rapid traceability and containment of disease during an outbreak and finalized the rule in April 2024 after considering all public and industry comments. Official identification for interstate movement of cattle and bison has been required since 2013. While having to change the type of ID for interstate movement of certain types of animals may seem as a burden to producers at first sight, the widespread use of this technology will make the cattle industry and food supply chain in the U.S. more robust and should be regarded as a step in the right direction for producers. All details are available on the USDA Animal Disease Traceability website (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/traceability>). Additional information may be found on the California Department of Food and Agriculture's website under the **Animal Disease Traceability** page. In a nutshell, here are the most important details that ranchers need to be aware of with respect to the updated Federal ADT rule.

[Read More](#)

Updates from the UCCE Mariposa Fire Team

UCCE MARIPOSA FIRE EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATES

Our hearts go out to all those affected by the wildfires in Southern California. The scale and impacts of these fires are an urgent reminder to all of us in California about the importance of preparing for wildfires and mitigating wildfire risk.

Please visit the UC ANR Fire Network website at <https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/> for resources related to preparing your home for wildfire, evacuation planning, prescribed burning, firewise landscaping, and wildfire recovery, and don't hesitate to reach out to local Fire Advisor Alison Deak at aldeak@ucanr.edu or (209) 966-2417 for any questions you may have about these topics.

WELCOME TO MARIPOSA AMERICORPS NCCC TEAM RED 6

We are delighted to be partnering with Mariposa County to host an Americorps NCCC Team for the second year in a row! The team will work for a total of seven weeks with Mariposa-based nonprofit and partner organizations between January and April. After receiving their Wildland Fire Chainsaws certification at Yosemite Adult School, NCCC members will assist the UCCE Mariposa Fire Education Program with fuels reduction and

prescribed burn unit preparation projects over two weeks in February and March.

TREE SCHOOL 2025

Register today for California Tree School 2025 - Oakhurst Session! Explore foundational forestry concepts with forestry and fire experts from across UC ANR and California. This one-day, mini college experience is for forest landowners, natural resource organization employees, and all forest enthusiasts! Take four classes of your choice on forest inventory, native plants, fire ecology, and more. Connect with UC ANR advisors, local agencies and organizations, and your community.

EVENT DETAILS

When: Saturday April 12, 2025

Where: Yosemite Adult School, Oakhurst CA

Registration fee: \$75, scholarships available by request. Contact kcingram@ucanr.edu to request a scholarship.

Register at <https://ucanr.edu/CATreeSchool>



LOG IN TODAY FOR CA TREE SCHOOL! OAKHURST SESSION

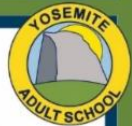
Grow your forest stewardship skills with a day of learning led by forestry and fire experts from UC ANR and across California.

EXPLORE FOUNDATIONAL FORESTRY CONCEPTS

California Tree School is a one-day, mini-college experience.

TAKE 4 CLASSES OF YOUR CHOICE
on forest inventory, native plants,
fire ecology, and more.

CONNECT WITH UC ANR ADVISORS
and natural resource organizations.



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WHERE: Yosemite Adult School,
Oakhurst CA

REGISTRATION FEE: \$75

Scholarships available by request.

Contact: kcingram@ucanr.edu



REGISTER TODAY!

FOR LANDOWNERS, STUDENTS, AND THE COMMUNITY!

CA Tree School has classes for all
forest enthusiasts, beginners
and experts. Come one, come all!
CA Tree School is for ages 15+.

LEARN MORE AT
ucanr.edu/CATreeSchool.

CA Tree School 2025 is presented by:

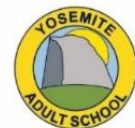
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Forest Stewardship



CALIFORNIA
Fire Science
CONSORTIUM
Aggregating Our Values Adds Power



SCIENCE ON TAP

We are continuing to partner with The Local Grape to host monthly Science on Taps! Science on Tap brings regional scientists together with our community members to share the joy and urgency of discoveries--from the outermost reaches of space and time, to the everyday laboratory in our backyards. These public talks begin at 5:30 PM, followed by a short reception and ample time for question and answer or workshop sessions.

Monday, February 24th at 5:30 PM

Recent Discoveries of the James Webb Space Telescope

Presented by Cosmologist Dr. Ryan Keeley, postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, Merced

Monday, March 10th at 5:30 PM

The Ethics of Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Presented by Philosopher Dr. Hannah Gunn, University of California, Merced

Please contact Alison Deak at aldeak@ucanr.edu to sign up to receive updates about upcoming Science on Taps!

YOSEMITE GATEWAY PRESCRIBED BURN COOPERATIVE UPDATES

Yosemite Gateway Prescribed Burn Cooperative (YGPBC) is a group of local landowners, community members, community-based organizations, and agency partners working together to conduct prescribed burns throughout Mariposa and Madera Counties. We bring people together to conduct prescribed burns by pooling resources, assisting with planning, permitting, prep work, and implementation, and providing training opportunities. Visit our website www.YosemiteGatewayPBC.com, sign up for our newsletter, and follow us on social media at @YosemiteGatewayPBC to learn more about our work.



Funding for this project provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE) Wildfire Prevention Grants Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.

Prescribed burn in Sugar Pine

We were fortunate to be able to leverage funding from the Resources Legacy Fund to hire a California Prescribed Fire Burn Boss to support a four-day Yosemite Gateway Prescribed Burn Cooperative prescribed fire training event on a private property in Sugar Pine in early November 2024. Over the course of four days, 58 people attended the event, including 20 members of the Greater Sierra Forestry Corps and 8 Americorps members—each receiving training in firing, holding, engine, and mop-up operations. A total of 11 acres were burned across four units that haven't seen fire in over a century above the community of Sugar Pine, providing critical community wildfire risk reduction and tying in adjacent treatments on National Forest System lands. Four participants held training positions in burn boss, firing boss, and holding boss positions, with one receiving signatures in his



CARX taskbook. Highlights of the event included having the landowner and his two children commence burning on the property and many neighbors dropping by to thank us for protecting their community.



Learn and Burn Workshop

YGPBC hosted a Learn and Burn workshop in December. Eighteen participants attended a classroom day where they learned about fire weather, fire ecology, and prescribed burn operations; and a field day where the Burn Coop assisted a local landowner in Mariposa with conducting a 6-acre burn. The classroom curriculum taught landowners to identify safe weather for burning, what areas make good burn units, and describes the operational roles on prescribed fires. Conditions were perfect for the burn day, and participants practiced the skills learned in the classroom, using hand tools,

cutting fire breaks, igniting, and securing fire lines.

This is our first learn and burn of many, so stay tuned for more!

Women's Chainsaw Training

In October, YGPBC offered our first women's chainsaw training course at Sierra Foothill Conservancy's Stookey Preserve in partnership with The Nature Conservancy. Eighteen women attended the two-day workshop learning and receiving hands-on training about chainsaw operations and maintenance. Overwhelming, participants felt the workshop increased their knowledge and confidence in chainsaw operations. Notably, many participants also said that it was very empowering to have an all-female class led by female instructors!



Woody Biomass and Forest Products

To Kick Off 2025, Here Are Some of the Latest News in Biomass and Forest Products in case You Missed Them Over the Holidays:



The World's Largest 3D Printer is Building Cozy Homes from Wood

Dozens of 3D-printed homes have been built across the world – to house a family in the US state of Virginia or members of an impoverished community in rural Mexico. The world's largest 3D-printed neighborhood is currently under construction outside of Austin, Texas.

Habib Dagher, the executive director of the University of Maine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center ([ASCC](#)), believes that 3D printed homes are a solution to help solve the housing crisis across the U.S., and even the world. 3D printed homes require mostly concrete. However, this can change as ASCC recently received what it says is the world's largest polymer 3D printer in Summer 2024, which might just revolutionize 3D-home-printing while solving the housing crisis. The new printer can produce objects as large as 96 feet long by 32 feet wide by 18 feet high and can print up to 500 pounds per hour. At this rate, a BioHome3D, a 600-square-foot single-family built from local wood fiber and bio-resin materials, can be produced in 48 hours. Read more about it [here](#).

Watch Duty, a Wildfire Monitoring App, Can Help People in High-Risk Communities

A nonprofit organization, Watch Duty, sends out alerts of nearby fires and provides information on wildfire risk and ongoing incidents as they occur. Watch Duty's service can be accessed through its mobile app, which is available to download for free on common app platforms. Currently, Watch Duty has monitoring services in over 21 states, and is growing amid increased wildfire risk. [The Guardian](#) recently reported on how Watch Duty can become an essential service for California residents. Learn more about this service on Watch Duty's [website](#).

Mapping Biomass and Wood Products Facilities in California

UC ANR Woody Biomass Utilization Group is working to update the statewide wood processing facility database. The database will not only support the interactive map, but it will also provide residents the latest progress related to bioenergy projects and facility locations, as well as help our industry partners increase visibility in the bioeconomy field. The latest update includes the **Mariposa Biomass Project**, which is set to start groundwork this year. If you are interested in exploring more, visit [our website](#) to access the interactive map and other information.

Golden State Natural Resources (GSNR) Completed its Draft DEIR for Public Review

The **Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)** for Golden State Natural Resources' (GSNR) proposed forest resiliency demonstration project is now publicly available for a 90-day review period. GSNR, a California benefit corporation and nonprofit organization, was created for the purposes of implementing a robust forest resiliency through fuel reduction projects involving wood pellet manufacturing and export. One of the projects is located in Tuolumne County. The implementation of these projects would likely advance community resilience in rural California. This report provides details on the progress of GSNR's project and alignment with environmental requirements from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). You can read the draft [here](#).

Upcoming Events



4-H Camp Tweety Returns in July!

Mariposa County 4-H invites all 4th- 8th grade youth to come join the fun at 4-H Camp Tweety July 12-14, 2025 at Camp Oakhurst. Youth must be age 9 by December 31, 2024. If your child is interested in experiencing



Upcoming Master Gardener Workshop-Container Gardening

Mariposa Master Gardeners would like to invite you to their upcoming workshop on container gardening on March 29th at McCay Hall in Cathey's Valley.



Save the date

UC ANR would like to invite you to California Tree School happening on April 12th in Oakhurst Ca. Explore foundational forestry concepts with forestry and fire experts from across UC ANR and California. This one-day, mini-college experience is for forest landowners,

camp life, meeting new friends, or just having a great time, please contact Ira Jones, 4-H Coordinator at 209 966-2417 for further information.

Registration is required, and space is limited!

natural resource organization employees, and all forest enthusiasts!

Please see our website for event registrations

**Visit our
Website**



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