



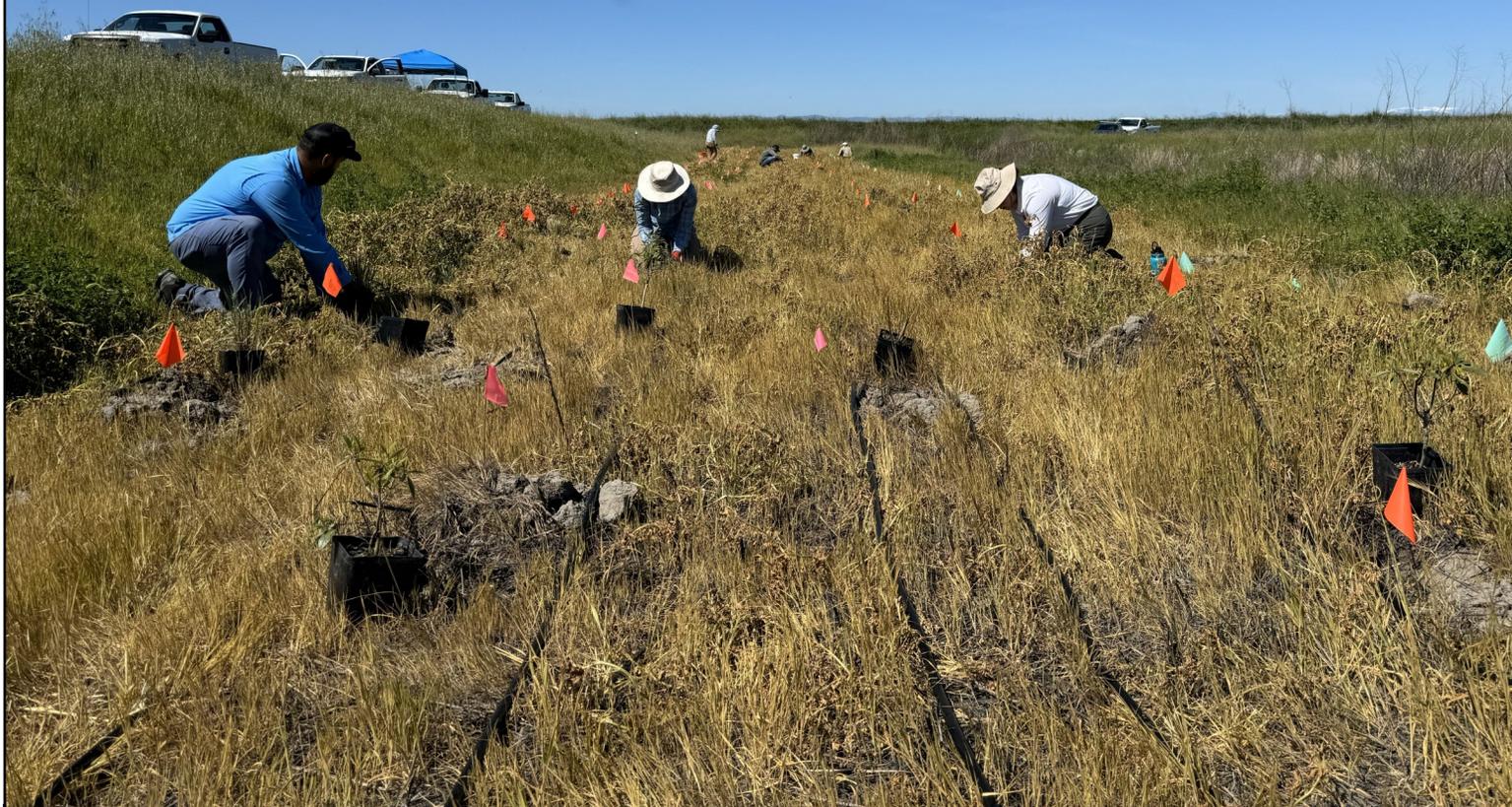
UC Cooperative Extension

University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources



Annual Report 2025

**Connecting
Communities
and Science!**



UC Cooperative Extension Sutter-Yuba Counties | 142A Garden Highway, Yuba City, CA 95991-5512
Office (530) 822-7515 Fax (530) 673-5368 <http://cesutter.ucanr.edu/>

UCCE Sutter-Yuba



233

volunteers donated
21,486
hours public service
(estimated value) of
\$747,497



59

peer-reviewed and
audience-requested
publications



15,336

total educational
interactions with the
public



76

academic-led
workshops, field days,
and classes with
6,182
participants



13

activities bringing
research to policy

University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) brings the power of UC research in agriculture and natural resources, nutrition and youth development to local communities to improve the lives of all Californians.

Our Cooperative Extension (UCCE) county-based advisors, community education specialists, and campus-based academics work as teams to bring practical, trusted, science-based solutions to our state. We are problem solvers, catalysts, collaborators, educators, and stewards of the land, living in the communities we serve.

We are a partnership between Sutter and Yuba Counties and the University of California, who all support our work with funding and resources. We bring science-based research and programming to everyone in the community through a variety of different programs. We are one of the oldest of the 64 Cooperative Extension offices located across California. Established in 1918 — we turned 107 in 2025!



UC Master Gardener volunteers
reached
6,554
residents



1,430
youth in
UC 4-H Youth Development
Program



\$367,360
County



\$1,175,368
University



\$304,220
Advisor generated
(grants, gifts, other, etc.)

Thank you for your support!

Sutter County Board of Supervisors

Jeff Boone, District 1
Dan Flores, District 2
Mike Ziegenmeyer, District 3
Karm Bains, District 4
Jeff Stephens, District 5

Yuba County Board of Supervisors

Andy Vasquez, Jr., District 1
Renick House, District 2
Seth Fuhrer, District 3
Gary Bradford, District 4
Jon Messick, District 5



Partnering for Change

ANR builds partnerships based on deep and long-lasting relationships with local, state and federal governments, community-based organizations, schools, nonprofits and private industry. Here are the many organization that UC Cooperative Extension partners with to serve the residents of Sutter and Yuba Counties:

Agromillora Nursery	Elanco Animal Health	Say Love
AgSeeds Unlimited	Ella Elementary School	Sierra Cascade Logging Conference
Alzchem Group (Dormex)	Erdman Farms	Sierra Gold Nurseries
Andros Karperos Elementary School	Family Soup	Sierra Pacific Industries
Barry Elementary School	Furlan Farms	Sierra Streams Institute
Bear River Supply PCA's	George and Carson Tibbits, Growers	Siller Brothers
Benden Farms	Gilbert Orchards	Society of American Foresters
Berkeley Forests	Golden Gate Hop Ranch	Sohnrey Family Farms
Big Valley Ag PCA's	Gray Avenue Elementary School	Sustainable Conservation
Blue Zones	Grow West Supply PCA's	Sutter County Agricultural Department
Bob Amarel, Jr., Reason Farms	Gurbinder Atwal	Sutter County Resource Conservation District
Bridge Street Elementary School	Gurj Thakar	Shady Creek Outdoor School
Bullards Bar	Habitat for Humanity's Harmony Village	Sutter Orchard Supply
Burchell Nursery, Inc.	Healthy YOUba Coalition	Sutter-Yuba Farm Bureau
Butte Vista Elementary School	Home Depot	Sycamore Marsh Farm
CAL FIRE	Hopland Research and Extension Center	Tahoe National Forest
California Alfalfa and Forage Research Foundation	Jaw GP	Tessengerlo Kerley, Inc
California Association of Science Educators	Joe Conant, Grower	The Blue Zones Project
California Canning Peach Association	Joe Serger, Miki Orchards	Tierra Buena Elementary School
California Cling Peach Association	John Amarel, REASON Farms	Tollcrest Dairy
California Cling Peach Board	Johnson Park Elementary School	Triple C Farms
California Crop Improvement Association	Kim Gallagher, Grower	TS&L Seeds
California Dry Bean Advisory Board	King Avenue Elementary School	UC ANR Forest Stewardship
California Envirothon	Kingsley Farms	UC Davis Agricultural Experiment Station
California Foundation for Ag in the Classroom	Kiwifruit Administrative Committee	UC Integrated Pest Management Program
California Institute for Water Resources	Kuldip Atwal	UC SAREP
California Rice Commission	Lincoln Elementary School	UC Weed Research and Information Center
California Rice Experiment Station	Marysville Joint Unified School District	US Forest Service
California Rice Research Board	Marysville Business Alliance	USDA - Agricultural Research Service
California Society of American Foresters	Massa Organics Farm	USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service
California Tomato Research Institute	Matt and Dan Bozzo	USDA - Wildlife Services
California Walnut Board & Commission	Matt Lagorio, Grow West	USFS - State and Private Forestry
California Wild Rice Advisory Board	Mini Buttes Farm	Van Groningen & Sons
Camptonville Elementary School	Norene Ranches Inc.	Wallace Brothers
Casa De Esperanza	Odyssey Farms	Western Cover Crops Council
CDFA - Fertilizer Research and Education	Park Avenue Elementary School	Western SARE
CDFA - Healthy Soils Program	Park Farming Organics	Willamette Ag, Inc.
Cedar Lane Elementary School	Pleasant Grove Farms	Yuba City Day School
Center for Land Based Learning – SLEWS	Precision Sustainable Agriculture	Yuba City Unified School District
Chamberlain Farms	Project Learning Tree	Yuba County Agriculture Department
Charlie Mathews, Mathews Rice Dryer	Richter AG	Yuba County Office of Emergency Services
Chico State University Farm	Rick Wilbur, Wilbur Ranch	Yuba County School Readiness Program
CN Farms	River Garden Farms	Yuba County Sheriff's Department
Colusa County Farm Supply PCA's	River Vista Farms	Yuba River Endowment
Colusa County Resource Conservation District	Riverbend Elementary School	Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council
Community Housing Improvement Program	Sacramento Area Science Project	Yuba-Sutter Cattlemen's Association
Conant Orchards	Sacramento Valley Soil Hub	Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds
Cultiva, LLC	Sanders Pump & Irrigation	Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau
Diamond Foods Inc.	Sarbdeep Atwal	

Rice and Wild Rice

Rice

The UCCE Rice Team, led locally by Whitney Brim-DeForest, continues to advance research and outreach efforts that support the productivity, sustainability, and profitability of California's rice industry. In 2024–2025, the team collaborated across nine counties and engaged more than 500 growers, Pest Control Advisors, and industry partners through field days, workshops, and stakeholder meetings. Collectively, projects supported by competitive grants and industry partnerships exceeded \$1 million in external funding. The team's work spans water-use efficiency, soil health, pest and weed management, and the integration of conservation practices, addressing both current and emerging challenges in rice production systems.

Wild Rice

The wild rice program continues to grow, with two exciting new developments in 2025:

- ⇒ The first-ever Pest Management Strategic Plan for California Wild Rice was published, and is available on the Western IPM Website.
- ⇒ The second wild rice herbicide was registered in California this year. The new product, Loyant™ CA Rinskor™ active (florpyrauxifen-benzyl) was recently registered for use in California wild rice, with a Section 24(c), a special local needs registration. The registration only allows for the use in California wild rice. It cannot be applied to river or lake grown wild rice and should only be applied to cultivated wild rice in California. This registration will help prevent the selection for herbicide resistance in weeds of wild rice.



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Double-Propanil Alternatives

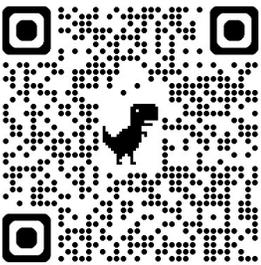
(Project Lead: Whitney Brim-DeForest)

- Duration:** 3 years
Locations: Multiple sites throughout Sutter, Yuba, Butte, and Colusa Counties
Objective: To combat the spread of herbicide-resistant watergrass, this project evaluates alternative herbicide programs that maintain effective weed control while reducing reliance on double-propanil applications.
- Impact:**
- ◆ Provides validated resistance management strategies to growers.
 - ◆ Helps preserve the long-term utility of propanil chemistry.
 - ◆ Reduces risk of yield loss due to resistant weed populations.

Cover Cropping Variety Trial

(Project Leads: Michelle Leinfelder-Miles and Whitney Brim-DeForest)

- Duration:** 3 years (just completed)
Locations: Colusa, Butte, and San Joaquin Counties
Objective: To identify cover crop species and varieties best suited for heavy, low-permeability rice soils, particularly during wet winter conditions. The project evaluated species performance, biomass production, and contributions to soil nitrogen, carbon, and organic matter.
- Impact:**
- ◆ Identifies cover crops suitable for rice soils.
 - ◆ Promotes soil health and nutrient cycling.
 - ◆ Builds grower capacity to implement cover cropping as a winter management practice.



ipmdata.ipmcenters.org

Pest Management
Strategic Plan
for Wild Rice
in California

Rice Team



Taiyu Guan
Assistant Specialist



Troy Clark
Staff Research Assoc.



Consuelo Baez Vega
Ag Technician



Vanessa Varela
Junior Specialist



Victor Barragan, Jr.
Ag Technician

Rice Team

Agronomic Crops and Nutrient Management



- ◆ Worked closely with UCCE statewide bean team to support varietal improvement for blackeye beans and garbanzos. Recently, CB77 was publicly released as an improved variety with similar yield and quality to CB46 but with resistance to cowpea aphid. More details about blackeye and garbanzo variety trials can be found in Sarah's June 2025 newsletter.
- ◆ A new nitrogen fertilizer calculator for annual crops was released. Sarah participated in multiple years of field trials with the statewide agronomy group to develop this resource. This calculator currently includes grain and silage corn, sunflowers, processing tomatoes, and spring-grown wheat. The calculator includes nitrogen sources including nitrogen

mineralization from soil organic matter and can help users plan N fertilization based on field specific inputs. More details and the link to the calculator are in Sarah's June 2025 newsletter.

- ◆ The Cover Crop Selector Tool has been released for California. The tool also provides extensive information about individual cover crop species such as growth habits, agronomic considerations, environmental tolerances, termination information, and more. This website can be used to both get a recommendation for cover crop species or as a cover crop database. The tool can be found here: <https://westerncovercrops.org/decision-tools/>.
- ◆ Soil health sampling was completed on 20 farms in the Sacramento Valley as part of the California Farm Demonstration Network. Sarah partnered with grower collaborators, Orchards Advisor, Clarissa Reyes, the Colusa RCD and Sacramento Valley Soil Hub, and UC SAREP on this regional effort.

Thank you to the growers who have worked with me and dedicated significant time and resources toward to success of these and other projects. The work would not be possible without you!



Sarah Light
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Sutter-Yuba Rice Team - Student Spotlight!

The STEM Connections Collaborative (CSC²) aims to recruit and retain students in STEM majors, particularly those who are historically underrepresented, in natural sciences and agriculture. UCCE Rice Advisor, Whitney Brim-DeForest, participates in the program through her Lecturer Appointment at CSU, Chico.



Oscar Deleon Jr. is a Plant and Soil Science major at California State University, Chico, with an option in Crops and Horticulture.

Through the CSC² program, he worked with the UC Cooperative Extension Rice Team under Dr. Whitney Brim-DeForest, assisting with herbicide trials, pest monitoring, and grower outreach. His experience with UCCE strengthened his passion for research and hands-on agricultural work.

Oscar plans to pursue a master's degree at Chico State in the Department of Biological Sciences, studying the relationships between fungi and plants. His goal is to continue contributing to agricultural research that supports both growers and environmental sustainability.



Mia Esperanza Avila is a 4th year undergraduate student at California State University Chico, and has been working as a member of the UCCE Rice Team since May.

CSC² Experience - Mia began working with UCCE as a summer intern through a student program at CSUC that allows undergraduate students to work in research projects in professional settings.

Alongside hands-on experience working on a research project, interns were required to present scientific research posters, attend seminars on various areas of research.

Mia plans to continue working as a member of the UCCE Rice Team while completing her bachelor's degree, after which she will pursue graduate school with an interest in food systems or organic farming.



Livestock and Natural Resources

Our Livestock and Natural Resources advisor has spent the first year in her role conducting a needs assessment by actively engaging with local livestock producers and community agencies involved in agriculture. Through this needs assessment, Andrea has identified some of the top challenges for producers and will build a research and extension program around these findings.

In addition, Andrea has been conducting applied research projects that will benefit local ranchers. This spring, she collaborated with a team of livestock advisors and UC Specialists to investigate the efficacy and cost analysis of commonly used fly repellent products. This project will inform producers on the effectiveness of fly tags, pour on treatments, and their relationship to pinkeye occurrence and treatment costs to make decisions for their operation.



Program Highlights

- Coordinated the Nevada-Placer-Yuba Livestock Disaster Pass and Nevada County Agricultural Disaster Pass programs, providing training to 38 local producers in fire behavior, the incident command system, and disaster planning.
- Hosted Beef Field Day at the Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center, where over 95% of respondents (n=23) said they learned information and tools for pasture management, pinkeye treatment, and contingency planning.
- Coordinated an “Ag Legacy” event in Yuba County for 18 farmers/ranchers to learn about succession planning.
- Collaborated with Sierra Harvest to host a workshop on the basics of grazing management
- Co-hosted a “Sheep and Goat Health” and “Beef Cattle Health” series in collaboration with UC Davis Veterinary Medicine, which reached more than 200 livestock producers across the state.
- Shared scientific information with local producers via the “Foothill Livestock Network” Facebook page, and the “Sierra Stock Review” Newsletter.



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Dairy

The dairy program focuses on animal health and environmental stewardship to ensure sustainability of dairies. Through research and educational programs, we bring the latest science solutions to our community. In 2025, research projects included dairy calf colostrum management, research on calf housing management, studies on external parasite control and productivity, and evaluation of manure management practices to mitigate methane production. Research results were shared with program clientele at the Golden State Dairy Management Conference, World Ag Expo, and local workshops.



H5N1 Avian Influenza presented a tremendous challenge to dairy producers as the virus crossed from wild birds into dairy cattle in Texas in late 2023, and began circulating in California in late 2024. Due to exceptional biosecurity efforts of dairy producers, the outbreak in dairy was contained to south of Highway 50, relieving our local dairy producers from the significant animal health and economic burden of the disease. Our team worked with dairies to help prevent the spread of H5N1 through educational workshops, creation of written materials, and distribution of biosecurity kits.

Locally led research was shared at scientific conferences throughout the U.S. and contributions to the scholarly literature included:

- Promoting higher levels of immunity from colostrum among calves on organic dairy farms
- Effect of a dairy farmworker stewardship training program on antimicrobial drug usage in dairy cows
- Effects of short-term climatic conditions on the risk of bovine respiratory disease in preweaned calves on California dairies
- Analysis of Antimicrobial Residues and Resistance Profiles of *Escherichia coli* and *Enterococcus* spp. in Lagoon Water from California Dairies
- Effects of simplified group housing on behavior, welfare, growth performance, and health of preweaned dairy calves on a California dairy



Betsy Karle
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Addressing local concerns as part of the community

Integrated Pest Management Program

Sudan Gyawaly, Area Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisor, continued collaborating with local growers, pest control advisers, and University of California colleagues on research projects addressing local needs. In 2025, pest management research efforts included:

- ⇒ **Leaffooted bug trap evaluation.** In collaboration with Northern San Joaquin Valley IPM Advisor Jhalendra Rijal, Sudan evaluated the efficacy of a new commercial trap for leaffooted bugs in almonds. Preliminary data shows the new traps attract and capture bugs. Further work is needed to assess the utility of traps in field monitoring programs.
- ⇒ **Invasive species survey.** Sudan continued the second year of surveys for the invasive carpophilus beetle and brown marmorated stink bug in the Northern Sacramento Valley. Over the course of two years of surveys, BMSB has been detected in one orchard in the region. While beetle samples from the survey are still being identified, no invasive carpophilus beetles have been detected in the samples processed to date.
- ⇒ **Key pest monitoring.** Sudan also continued monitoring key pests of almonds, walnuts, and peaches in the region. Trap count data for these pests are regularly posted as Pest Reports on the [Sacramento Valley Orchards Source](#) website, providing growers and pest control advisers with timely information about insect flights and degree-day accumulations.



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**UC Integrated
Pest Management**
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources



Yuba and Sutter Weed Management Area Re-Established in 2025

UCCE Sutter–Yuba is pleased to announce the launch of a new collaborative project with the Sutter and Yuba County Agricultural Commissioners' Offices focused on the identification and management of invasive weed species in the region. The Yuba and Sutter Weed Management Area (WMA), re-established in 2025, is a collaborative, community-based effort focused on identifying, preventing, and managing invasive and problematic weeds across Yuba and Sutter counties. The WMA will bring together local landowners, farmers, resource agencies, county departments, and the UCCE to share information, coordinate management strategies, and reduce the spread of weeds that threaten agriculture, waterways, and natural areas.

This initiative operates within the framework of Weed Management Areas (WMAs), which are designated by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and implemented by local agencies to prevent the spread of invasive weeds across California. The Yuba and Sutter WMA will be coordinating ongoing mapping and treatment efforts of invasive weeds and recruiting participating stakeholders. The WMA will also be holding public meetings and educational workshops. Through these efforts, the WMA will support proactive, science-based weed management that protects local ecosystems and working landscapes.

Participation in the WMA is open to the public, and all interested stakeholders are encouraged to get involved. Meetings will be held from 3-4pm on the second Monday of each month, starting in February 2026, at the Sutter County Agricultural Commissioner's Office Conference Room.



Facilitating problem-solving and outreach

Orchard Crops

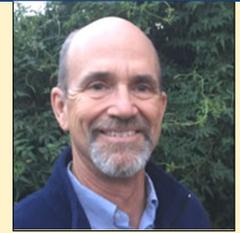
Clarissa and Franz serve growers, farm managers, workers, and orchard consultants who work with fruit and nut trees, specializing in walnut, peach, kiwifruit, almonds, and prunes. For Clarissa, her applied research projects include walnut variety and rootstock testing, whole orchard recycling in walnut, and kiwifruit disease management. Extension activities for both include conducting farm calls to answer grower questions, hosting field and indoor meetings, and sharing information about orchard management via SacValleyOrchards.com and quarterly newsletters.

Program highlights of this year include:

- ◆ **“Ag Legacy” Symposium.** Clarissa partnered with Livestock & Natural Resources Advisors Tracy Schor and Andrea Warner to host a meeting on agricultural estate planning in Yuba City for farmers and ranchers. The session featured talks from local attorneys about legal considerations as well as personal stories from farmers and ranchers who have navigated challenging legacy plans and transfers.
- ◆ **Whole Orchard Recycling and Walnut Rootstock Field Day.** Clarissa hosted growers and other industry members in July at a demonstration walnut orchard in Rio Oso where she is conducting ongoing research on whole orchard recycling practices. The trial features Chandler on four commercial walnut rootstocks (RX1, VX211, Vlach, and Grizzly) planted in a field with blocks of whole orchard recycling chips. Grower-collaborator Mat Conant discussed orchard site history. Clarissa shared results and data on growth differences and horticultural advantages of each of the rootstocks. San Joaquin County Orchard Advisor Brent Holtz covered nutrient management, logistics, and additional benefits of whole orchard recycling practices.
- ◆ **Kiwi vine canker disease management research.** Toward the end of the 2024 growing season, Clarissa began receiving calls from growers in Butte and Yuba counties reporting dieback symptoms in their vines, less shoot growth, small/yellow leaves, vine cankers, and in more severe cases, cane and cordon dieback. With support from the Kiwifruit Administrative Committee, she is collaborating with the Eskalen Lab at UC Davis on identification and management of fungal pathogens causing dieback and canker disease of kiwifruit in California.



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Franz Niederholzer
Orchard Crops Advisor
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Franz’s program in Sutter/Yuba Counties includes:

- ◆ Answering grower and Pest Control Advisor (PCA) farm calls on almonds and prune orchard production issues
- ◆ Contributing to quarterly newsletters on almond and prune growing (a total of eight per year)
- ◆ Hosting (planning and speaking) at the annual prune grower meeting in Yuba City
- ◆ Writing a column in West Coast Nut Grower magazine focused on nut growing in the Sacramento Valley. The column’s focus is mostly on almond production with information for walnut and pistachio growers.
- ◆ Conducting applied research in prune orchards in the region.

In 2025, Franz continued applied research work on bloom timing and weather conditions on fruit set and crop development in prunes, tracking bloom and temperatures in two orchards in the region. In addition, dormant canopy sprays of Dormex or CAN17 were applied in January and February to determine which material and/or timing advanced prune bloom to potentially avoid extreme weather at bloom. Spray materials to reduce tree stress in the late spring and summer were also tested and individual tree harvests done to test impact on cropload and fruit quality.



Facilitating participation of stakeholders

Climate Smart Agriculture Program

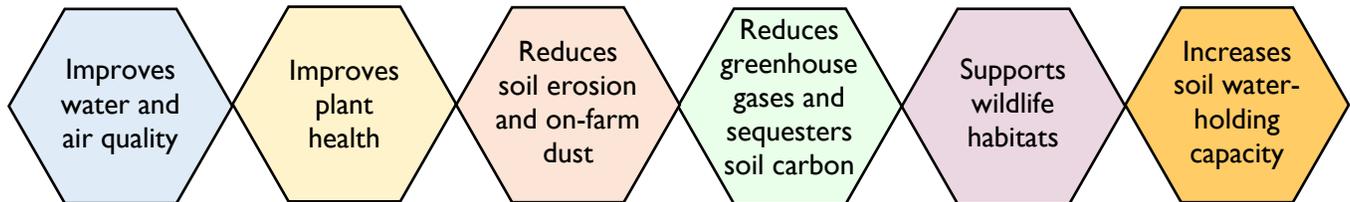
The UC ANR Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Program team has been busy this last year working on sustainable farming and ranching practices. Heather Montgomery's been getting the word out to farmers and ranchers about all the grants available to them in the Yuba-Sutter area.



Heather Montgomery
Community Education Specialist
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Heather has utilized the CDFA's Block Grant Pilot Program to make this happen while the Colusa Indian Community Council managed the grant funds for the Block Grant. The Healthy Soils Program (HSP) had \$3M in funding for climate smart on farm practices such as:

- ⇒ Compost Application
- ⇒ Mulching
- ⇒ Cover Cropping
- ⇒ Hedgerows
- ⇒ No/Reduced Tillage
- ⇒ Nutrient Management
- ⇒ Whole Orchard Recycling



The State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) Pilot Block Grant through the Colusa Indian Community Council (CICC) had \$4M in funding to help farmers and ranchers in need of irrigation efficiency or an innovative design system, along with solar. This saves water by reducing water use and saving on PG&E while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Besides the CDFA grants, Heather has helped farmers and ranchers apply for other grants. Sometimes the same grant will not fit everyone, and she strives to find grants that will help the individual farmer or rancher with what their needs are.

Heather has assisted CDFA with an additional Pilot Soil Sampling Program. This was a series of soil tests that are sampled every three years to look at the long-term effects of the climate smart practices. **Heather would like to thank to the farmers and ranchers who signed up to allow this testing to be done on your property, we appreciate you!**

Heather also saw a need in the community and created a networking workshop to bring Ag Professionals together to educate, collaborate, and get to know one another. This helps the Ag Community to stay up to date on innovation, Ag technology, and new grant funding opportunities. This workshop strengthens our Ag Professionals relationships with each other within our community to better serve our farmers and ranchers. The mission of the workshop is that **"We are better together!"**



Forestry & Natural Resources

In 2024-2025, our extension activities focused on targeted reforestation and forest stewardship trainings for local landowners and resource professionals. We also hosted the California Forest Science Symposium to bring together researchers and managers across California to share expertise on novel best practices for forest management. Research on the effectiveness of grazing in managing resprouting vegetation and fuels after high severity wildfire continues.



This year, we have also expanded workforce development efforts with development of new curriculum and additional Forestry Institute for Teachers workshops with Shady Creek Environmental School and growth of the California Forestry Mentorship program to include 80 forestry students. In the coming year, we plan to continue offering reforestation and GIS training workshop opportunities to support local workforce development.



Ricky Satomi
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Resources Advisor
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Forestry Education Program

UCCE's Forestry Education program collaborated with the California Society of American Foresters to bring the Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) program to California educators. For 32 years, FIT has provided week-long summer trainings that help PreK-12 educators introduce students to forest management concepts and career opportunities

through field-based professional development. Participants ultimately develop a lesson plan, which incorporates forestry principles and environmental education into the classroom, and are provided with a stipend for implementing their classroom lesson. FIT also certifies educators in Project Learning Tree (PLT) and Project Water Education Today (WET) Environmental Education curricula and offers Continuing Education Units from UC Davis or Cal Poly Humboldt to ensure continued literacy of California educators.

Four FIT sessions, hosted in Humboldt, Shasta, El Dorado and Tuolumne counties, trained 94 educators from 27 counties across the state, representing a diverse range of formal and non-formal educators. This fall, FIT trained 34 additional educators at 3-Day FIT-Focus sessions held in Nevada and Mendocino counties that offered participants training on special concepts, such as forestry tool use, career pathways, and disturbance ecology. The Nevada county FIT-Focus session was made possible through collaboration with local partners: Shady Creek Outdoor School (Sutter County Superintendent of Schools) and Sierra Streams Institute.

UCCE's Forestry Education program continues to enhance workforce development through the creation of education resources exploring key concepts and skills used in forestry and natural resource management. These activities have supported UC Environmental Stewards, California Conservation Corps, Lake Tahoe Community College, California Tree School, Berkeley Forests, and other post-secondary audiences to learn about forestry.



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Leading the way to science-based solutions

4-H Youth Development Program

Sutter-Yuba 4-H Year in Review: Celebrating Growth, Giving, and Community!

What an incredible year it's been for Sutter-Yuba 4-H! We kicked off the year celebrating National 4-H Week with proclamations from both Sutter and Yuba County Boards of Supervisors, recognizing the positive impact 4-H has on youth and our communities.

Throughout the year, our clubs stayed busy hosting and participating in so many amazing events — from the Color Me Green Run, County Presentation Day, Fall Fair, and Farm to Fork Dinner, to the Franklin 4-H Pumpkin Sale and Hallwood 4-H Spaghetti Feed. At the Yuba-Sutter Fair, our 4-H members shined in the show ring and received incredible support from community members during the Junior Livestock Auction.

We wrapped up the year in style at the Awards Banquet, where members were recognized for their accomplishments and celebrated with fun awards like Best Dressed, Most Decorated Hat, and Most Bi-County Events Attended.

We are also grateful for the generous support of our community partners — especially the Sutter County Fish and Game Commission and Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau — whose donations help make hands-on learning opportunities possible for our youth.

Our dedicated volunteers continued to grow their skills through Project Leader and Club Officer Trainings, ensuring the next generation of 4-H leadership is “Beyond Ready” to make a difference.

Here's to another successful year of learning, leading, and giving back — the 4-H way!



**4-H Youth
Development Program**
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources



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Rene McCrory
4-H Secretary
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Master Gardener Program

The University of California Master Gardener program of Sutter-Yuba Counties is a group of 47 trained and dedicated volunteers whose primary responsibility is disseminating horticulture information to home gardeners in the community.

The centerpiece of the Master Gardener program is the Learning Garden at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds where monthly workshops are conducted on the third Saturday of each month on a variety of gardening topics throughout the year. The produce from the learning garden is donated to vulnerable populations within both counties to include Harmony Village and Better Way Shelter.

Additionally, the organization was granted an expanded space at the Learning Garden in early 2025 and a greenhouse was purchased that will reside on the property.

The master gardener volunteers were also present in the following events:

- ◆ Office help desk for answering gardening and pest information
- ◆ Pop-up locations at various local businesses
- ◆ The Yuba Home, Garden and Recreation Show
- ◆ The Annual Spring Tomato Plant Sale
- ◆ Farm Day
- ◆ Yuba County Food and Water Festival
- ◆ 93Q Public Radio Show
- ◆ Yuba Environmental Science Charter Academy (YES)
- ◆ Yuba County Be Prepared Fair
- ◆ Continued renovations of the Learning Garden
- ◆ Sutter County Be Well Information Fair
- ◆ Collaborative school events alongside CalFresh

The Master Gardener Program help desk is open to home gardeners on Tuesdays 9:00 - noon and Thursdays 1:00 - 4:00pm. If you have a gardening question or problem, please give us a call or drop off a sample at our office for assistance, identification and support. **We are here to serve you!**



"I'd like to recognize the UC Sutter-Yuba Master Gardener organization and the countless number of volunteers for their dedication in providing education and generous donations of fresh produce to local non-profit organizations to improve the quality of life to the residents of the county."

— Shon Harris, Mayor of the city of Yuba City



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Master Gardener Program
Community Education
Specialist
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OUR IMPACT 2024 - 2025



CONTACTS
contacted 4392
community members

VOLUNTEERS
47 trained, dedicated and
passionate volunteers
contributed 7337 hours



COMMUNITY EVENTS
present at 77
community events
across both counties

CalFresh Healthy Living

Expanded Food and Nutrition

The Sutter County Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) Spotlight: Sutter Adult School

In Sutter County, 34% of residents speak a language other than English at home, with commonly spoken languages including Spanish, Hmong, Punjabi, Hindi, and Urdu.

The Sutter County Adult Education English as a Second Language (ESL) Program is free to adults and is designed to strengthen communication skills, helping students advance in both the workplace and educational settings. In April and May 2025 a total of 87 students across three ESL cohorts participated in a 9-week lesson series: *Families Eating Smart and Moving More* (FESMM) curriculum. Students earned academic credit while gaining practical skills to improve eating habits, physical activity, and overall well-being. The lesson series begins with participants completing an *About Me* form, which serves both to personalize the educational experience and to collect valuable program data.

To enhance accessibility and reduce language barriers, this form has been translated into multiple languages in recent years, making it especially useful in multilingual settings like the Sutter County Adult School ESL Program.

Sonia Rodriguez, EFNEP Community Education Specialist, shared her enthusiasm for these resources and for working with this site: "I always look forward to serving this fantastic group. You should have seen their reactions when they saw the 'About Me' form in their own language."



The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) serves adults who are at risk of food insecurity and who carry primary responsibility for household food purchasing and meal preparation. In 2025, the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) graduated 138 adult participants in Sutter and Yuba counties from a 6-week health education series focused on healthy cooking and eating, household food budgeting, and physical activity. Pre- and post-program evaluations showed measurable improvement in all topic areas for at least 80% of graduates, demonstrating strong behavior change across nutrition, resource management, and active living. These outcomes directly support the UC ANR priority to improve community health and wellness and highlight the program's role in strengthening food-related skills and long-term health resilience.



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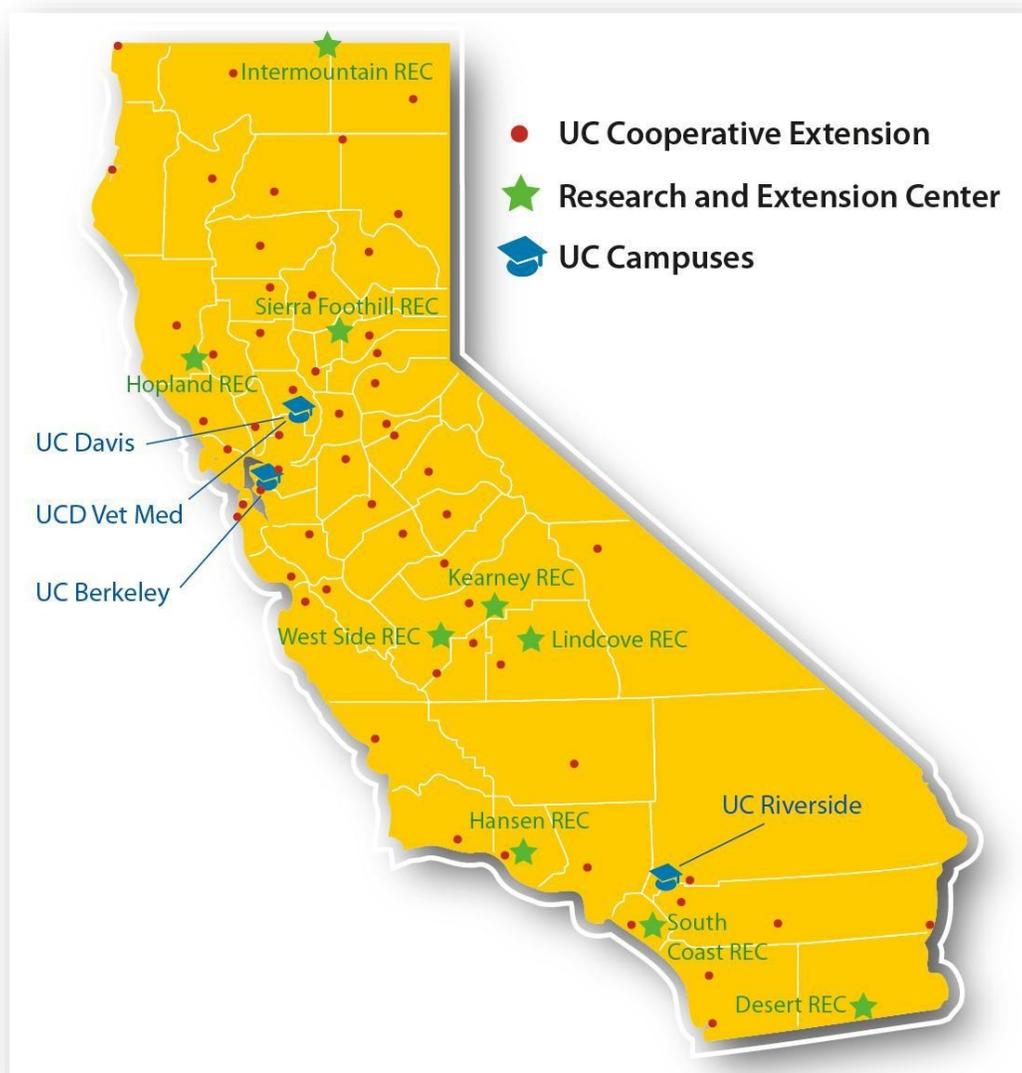
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We appreciate your continued support!

Area Director

Preet Ahluwalia

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Clarissa Reyes, Orchard Systems Advisor

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Sierra Jefferson, Office Assistant I - Extra Help



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