

New school farm

In September 2025, ACUSD Food Services Director, UC CalFresh Nutrition Educators, UCCE Farm Advisor, and Mother Lode Land Trust began discussions about developing a pilot school farm. With overwhelming community support, compost, lime and equipment were donated to prep the site and by November a half-acre farm was planted. This project will reduce transportation distances, support sustainable farming practices, and align food availability with seasonal production. The farm will support farm-to-school education, serve over 4,000 youth, and support career pathways, which enhance agricultural literacy and workforce development among youth. In the first year we strive to produce over 10,000 pounds of produce.



USDA delayed irrigation trial in walnuts

Water scarcity is a defining challenge in the Sierra foothills, where limited surface water, shallow soils, and rising drought pressures make efficient irrigation critical for tree crop survival and farm viability. To address this need, an irrigation research trial was launched in collaboration with UC Davis, comparing two irrigation regimes under foothill conditions. Preliminary



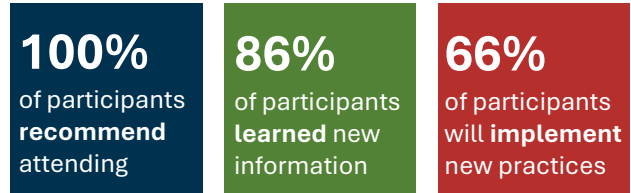
35,000 GALLONS
of water saved



data from the first year showed approximately 35,000 gallons of water were saved, demonstrating the potential for significant resource conservation. This work advances the UC ANR mission by increasing water use efficiency, improving grower knowledge and decision-making, and delivering economic and environmental benefits to foothill producers.

Return of Foothill Grape Day

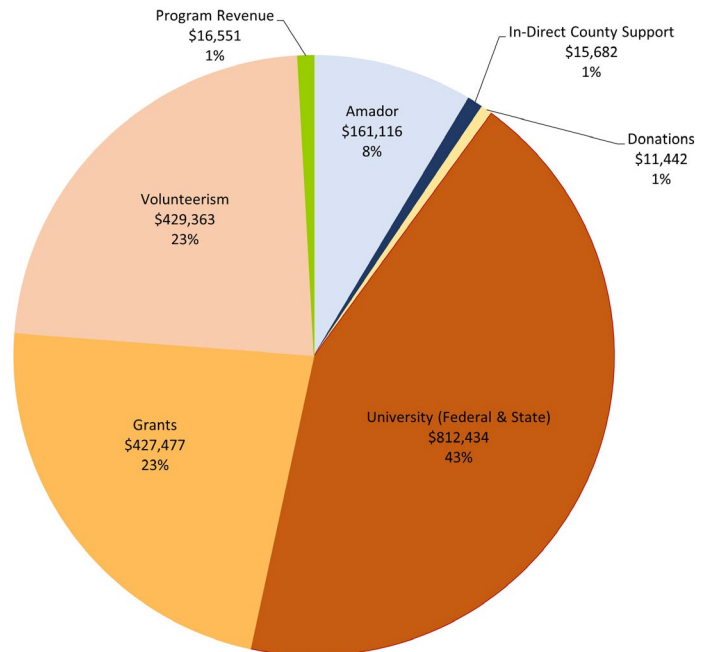
To support the foothill wine grape industry, advisors Singh and Patton organized a one-day event to address emerging insect pest management challenges. Growers were provided with research-based strategies for managing key pests affecting grape yield, quality, and vineyard longevity.



Landowners implement prescribed burns on their own properties

Prescribed burns, tabling events, and workshops engaged 279 participants, while two Learn-to-Burn workshops and 19 site visits provided technical assistance to landowners and helped produce six written burn plans. El Dorado-Amador Prescribed Burn Association (EAPBA) members hosted 14 burn events and burned 43 acres this year, 37 with broadcast burning and 6 with pile burning. The EAPBA has helped establish prescribed burning as an accessible land management tool.

UCCE funding sources



UC ANR Mission

UC ANR cultivates thriving communities, sustainable agriculture, resilient ecosystems, and economic prosperity in California through development and sharing of equitable and collaborative science-based solutions that have national and global impact.

4-H Youth Development Program (4-H)

- Over 200 youth members and adult volunteers enrolled in year-round club
- Farm Day hosted 282 third grade students for a hands-on agriculture education experience

UC Master Gardener Program (MG)

- Collaborated with Amador Resource Conservation District, Amador County Public Health, Amador County School District, and Amador County Waste Management
- Trained volunteers delivered 5,055 hours of education to Amador County residents
- 350 pounds of food waste and 37 truckloads of yard trimmings were diverted from the landfill
- Compost training reached over 1,500 residents and nearly 500 students

UC Master Food Preserver Program (MFP)

- Trained volunteers hosted 21 hands-on and virtual food preservation classes
- Volunteers attended 15 public outreach events
- Over 1,200 people learned safe and practical methods for food preservation
- Class participants reported feeling more confident and better prepared to preserve common foods and reduce food waste, especially when food prices are climbing

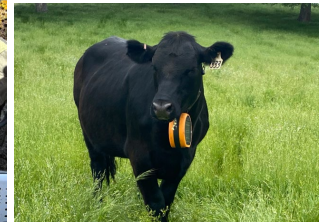
CalFresh Healthy Living (CFHL)

- Collaborated with Amador County Unified School District (ACUSD) to improve healthy living opportunities for all 4,059 enrolled students.
- CFHL Educators trained teachers in nutrition curricula and worked with Food Service staff to assess and update the District Wellness Policy
- Helped implement the Smarter Lunchrooms Movement at all 10 ACUSD school cafeterias

Mediterranean Oak Borer found in Amador County

Mediterranean Oak Borer (MOB) infestations in Sacramento County prompted the installation of three ethylene traps to scout for MOB in the Central Sierra region. The traps were monitored from March to July 2025, with the first MOB being found in Amador County. Advisor Patton hosted a webinar and field trip to share information about this invasive pest.

Image captions from top left to right: 4-H Club program members present at Amador Farm Day; UC Master Gardeners host Open Garden Day tour; Amador-El Dorado PBA prescribed burn workshop; Mediterranean Oak Borer; UC Master Food Preserver volunteers at Amador farmers' market; Students at Jackson Head Start enjoy a healthy meal after ATCAA and CFHL staff partnered to implement the Smarter Mealtimes Movement; Heifer fitted with VF collar for goatgrass grazing trial.



Amador County virtual fencing (VF) grazing trial

Barb goatgrass (*Aegilops triuncialis*) is a spreading invasive annual grass that reduces forage quality and poses an injury risk to livestock in its mature stage. Grazing is generally considered ineffective as cattle will graze more favorable forage, leaving the barb goatgrass to spread. In April 2025, UCCE partnered with a livestock producer in Amador County to evaluate virtual fencing (VF) as a method to implement high-intensity, short-duration grazing without any additional fencing infrastructure. 40 replacement heifers with no prior exposure to VF were trained and rotated across two adjacent infestations over a 22-day period, totaling 15 acres. The livestock stayed within the VF area 98% of the time. Viable barb goatgrass seed production was reduced by 87.3% compared to the ungrazed control areas, and the cattle gained an average of 2.08 pounds per animal per day. This result shows that VF can suppress barb goatgrass infestations while maintaining livestock productivity, and is a flexible alternative to prescribed fire, herbicides, or mechanical treatments. Last, this trial provided an opportunity for our clientele to trial an emerging livestock management technology.

