

# Elkus Ranch

Environmental Education Center

2018 Report



University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources



RICHARD J



# ELKUS RANCH

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

WELCOME

## Beloved Ranch, Big Impact

Since 1980, Elkus Ranch Environmental Education Programs have served the Bay Area community by providing students with immersive, hands-on learning experiences in agricultural and environmental education. Our goal is to inspire children to connect with the rich ecology of our coastside community to become caring stewards and engaged citizens.

Our programs are aimed to develop science literacy based on California's Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). We educate young people to understand our food systems and the interrelationships between farming, wildlife and the environment.

As part of UC Cooperative Extension, Elkus Ranch is also a site for bringing people working in the fields of sustainability and environmental education together, and for doing and sharing research on issues of public value. In the coming years, we look forward to continuing our programs for youth, and to pursuing new programs and events to serve adults and families, too!

Thank you sincerely for your support of Elkus Ranch and UCCE, now and in the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maggie La Rochelle Gunn".

**Maggie La Rochelle Gunn**

*Elkus Ranch Director and 4-H Youth Development Advisor*

*UC Cooperative Extension, San Mateo and San Francisco Counties*

# Youth Programs

2 0 1 8

**7492**

Student participants

**135**

Schools served

*# of students by grade*

K-3  5611

PreK  1269

4-6  412

7-12  112

**Educational programming** is the heart and soul of Elkus Ranch. Each year thousands of students spend a day with our educators learning about our region's agricultural heritage.





## Top School Districts

Schools from throughout the San Francisco Peninsula and greater Bay Area come to attend programs at Elkus Ranch. Our top three school districts are:

**Cabrillo Unified**

**San Mateo - Foster City Unified**

**Pacifica Unified**





# Ranch Tours

## PreK - 3rd grade

Guided ranch tours at Elkus are a mainstay of our programming throughout the year. They provide an opportunity for students to actively learn about the **production** of food and fiber, **interrelationships** of plants and animals, and the importance of **environmental stewardship** in the ranch setting. On a given tour students will meet and care for our goats, donkeys, sheep and chickens, plant a seedling, taste a flower or fresh vegetable from the garden, and learn about composting, predator-prey relationships, pollinators and more...

### Learning Themes

Plants and pollinators

Livestock and wildlife

Roles of the farmer  
and rancher



# Lunch at the Ranch

## Learning Themes

Sustainable agriculture

Farm to fork food preparation

Nutrition and food systems

## 2nd grade - high school

This nutrition program starts with leading children into the Elkus garden to **harvest** fresh produce, and then to our commercial kitchen to make and enjoy a three-course, garden-to-table meal! After preparing vegetable-topped pizzas, garden salads, and zucchini chocolate chip cookies, students and chaperones sit down to enjoy the family-style meal they've prepared complete with linens and a floral centerpiece. This garden-to-table experience is a great opportunity for children to **try new foods**, **build confidence** in cooking skills, and experience the satisfaction of a healthy meal well-prepared and well-enjoyed.

# Scholarships

1625

Students Supported

*"Environmental education provides important opportunities for students to become engaged in real world issues that transcend classroom walls. They can see the relevance of their classroom studies to the complex environmental issues confronting our planet and they can acquire the skills they'll need to be creative problem solvers and powerful advocates."*

-Ms. Campbell, California's Superintendent of San Mateo County Schools

A core value of our organization is to maintain the accessibility of our programming to all students, **regardless of their financial means.**

As school districts experience reduced budgets for out of classroom activities, Elkus Ranch has stepped in to subsidize program expenses to encourage under-resourced schools to participate in our programming.

For many of our urban schools, a visit to Elkus Ranch represents the first time many students will visit a working farm, encounter livestock, plant seeds, and make a meal from scratch.

We're grateful for our many donors that have provided us with their **generous support**. With your help we can ensure equal opportunities for diverse student groups.



# Special Events

## It's no yolk, raising chickens engages backyard poultry enthusiasts in some serious science!

Raising backyard chickens is part of an urban farming movement that has gained popularity nationwide. Despite its popularity, there is a lack of awareness about poultry disease, protection from common urban predators, and how to detect and treat health problems. These were the topics discussed at a **Backyard Poultry Workshop** held at Elkus Ranch on March 17, 2018.

4-H poultry project teen leaders were enlisted to work with UC veterinarian Maurice Pitesky, DVM, poultry specialist Richard Blatchford, PhD., and Youth Scientific Literacy Specialist, Martin Smith, Ed.D, to design the day of learning.

4-H teen leaders were the primary

instructors with the specialists stepping in as needed to support the presentations which covered various topics including: biosecurity methods, disease transmission, coop design and management systems, and animal health and welfare. The 50+ participants had opportunities to talk with other backyard chicken enthusiasts as well as 4-H project leaders.

*"I wanted to let you know what a positive experience and impact the backyard poultry workshop was to the teens involved. Only at Elkus Ranch is there the unique opportunity to have this connection with local 4H, a UC 4H farm and UC experts".*

Linh Chan, 4-H Poultry Project Leader

## Annual Events

Sheep to Shawl

Preschool Days

Summer Camps

Winter Camps



# Community



We are so very **grateful** for all the support that Elkus Ranch receives from individuals and organizations. This strong philanthropic culture dates back to our origins as Richard J. Elkus originally gifted the ranch to the University of California in 1975.

Our donors help us **expand** our reach, **engage** students from underserved areas and **incorporate** real world experiences into the educational curriculum. This year we are proud to announce a new partnership with **Hands On Bay Area** volunteer network and the implementation of monthly volunteer days. Volunteers spend many hours at the ranch helping us to maintain our working farm.

Together we deliver programs and experiences that instill the **values** of education, stewardship, and sustainability to the community.

## Highlights

\$79,084

Private support

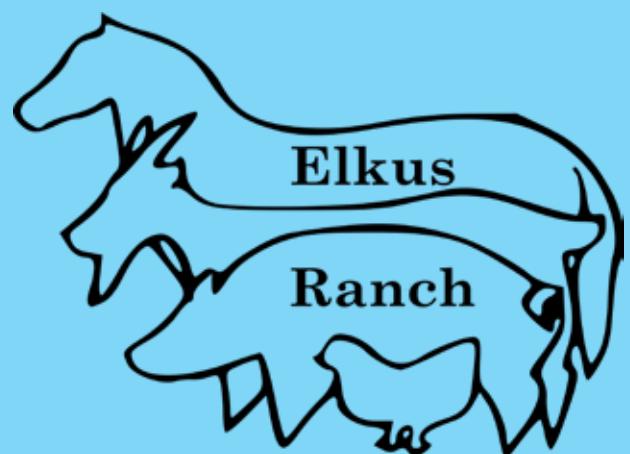
Monthly

Volunteer days



**Elkus Ranch Environmental Education Center  
1500 Purisma Creek Road  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019**

650-712-3151  
[elkusranch@ucanr.edu](mailto:elkusranch@ucanr.edu)  
<http://elkusranch.ucanr.edu>



**University of California**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources