

UC Cooperative Extension in Santa Barbara County

HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS • HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS • HEALTHY COMMUNITIES • HEALTHY CALIFORNIANS

FROM THE FIELD:

The new IPM model “is the best resource that I have seen to visually depict the seemingly never-ending layers of a comprehensive and dynamic IPM program. Surendra Dara's years of practical experience and collaboration with so many different pest managers/growers has created this beast of a tool that we can all use! I am grateful for this and your other many contributions to pest management Surendra.”

~ Charlie M., Host of [CropTalk](#) podcast



RANGE & NATURAL RESOURCES

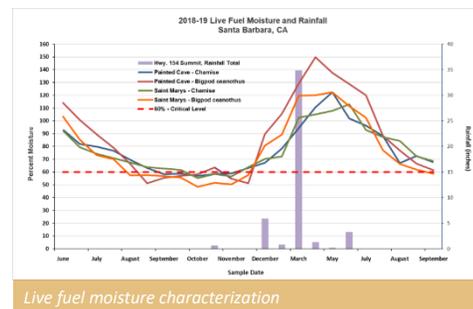


Fire resistance demonstration

The ranching industry in the Central Coast is an important part of the economy. This program provides information on improved forage species for production, improved nutrient quality, and plant species that can compete with weedy invasive species is important to the ranchers and land managers of rangelands. In partnership with USDA, Agriculture Research Service, CE advisor Larsen is researching a potential new plant species for livestock and wildlife: forage kochia (*Bassia prostrata*). This species is also fire resistant and could be an important plant species to help with fire breaks in strategic locations on our rangelands.

FIRE ECOLOGY & MANAGEMENT

Academics partnered with local citizen science volunteers to maintain local Live Fuel Moisture (LFM) data sampling and processing, which feed into regular updates and distribution through the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden website. A UCSB project on restoration of big cone Douglas fir is occurring in the Zaca Fire area of Santa Barbara County continues. Additionally, CE Specialist, [Dr. Max Moritz](#), is collaborating with UCSB academics on mapping sundowner winds to build statistically-based fire probability models.



Live fuel moisture characterization

NUTRITION EDUCATION

The CalFresh Healthy Living, UC program implemented a 30-hour [UC Garden Nutrition Extender](#) (UC GNE) training, supported community members at one public housing community garden site, and started the 2019/20 school year recruitment of educator extenders at five Santa Barbara County elementary schools. Additionally, programming started in five school sites in Santa Maria and Lompoc, reaching over 4,500 students in 105 classrooms with hands-on cooking demonstrations, physical activity promotion and schoolwide fruit and vegetable tasting.



Learning to teach from school gardens

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Agriculture and Natural Resources