

UC Cooperative Extension in Santa Barbara County

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

FROM THE FIELD:

"The UC Master Gardener Program of Santa Barbara has truly helped me feel at home here. Between the friendly faces, the impassioned conversations about ground squirrels, and the 'can do, will do' attitude that I see volunteers apply to projects, even as a trainee I felt like I'd hit on a big secret. Gardening grows more than just plants. Gardening grows communities. I look forward to meeting and supporting Santa Barbara County's UC Master Gardener volunteers in our mission to share science-backed gardening wisdom with members of our communities." ~ [Danica Lea Taber](#)



Advisor Shapero participating in a controlled burn

LIVESTOCK & RANGE

Academics advised the SBC Range Improvement Association (RIA), which participated in two controlled burns to meaningfully reduce fuel loading in critical areas of the county. The [Residual Dry Matter \(RDM\) sampling](#) of forage production plots throughout the county was completed, cataloguing grazing lands utilization and informs monitoring spatial and temporal patterns of rangeland forage production. A new GIS-mapping-based research project aims to identify the true loss of grazing lands associated with vineyard and cannabis expansion over the last 35 years; results will support future land use and planning decisions.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Program efforts focused on ecosystem-based strategies that focus on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Built capacity to capture, process and analyze multispectral imagery captured via drone in strawberry research project. Dissemination of the [new IPM Model](#) occurred through extension presentations and multiple trade journal articles.



Two field studies in strawberries to evaluate biostimulants and biofungicides were initiated



Graduates of the Victory Vegetable Gardening for True Beginners in Carpinteria

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

A [Master Gardener project site at Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden](#) received water-wise landscaping improvements from a partnership with the City of Santa Barbara, and Sweetwater Collaborative. MGs were trained in stormwater control principles and installation methods. The improvements demonstrate how to divert storm water from paths into planted areas while meeting ADA requirements. MGs served 3,994 county residents during this quarter, donating 895+ hours of volunteer service to educational outreach, representing a contributed value of \$26,835 to the County of Santa Barbara.

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Director

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources