

UC Cooperative Extension in Santa Barbara County

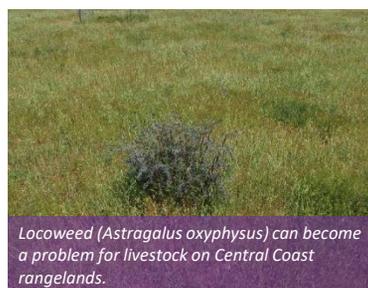
HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS • HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS • HEALTHY COMMUNITIES • HEALTHY CALIFORNIANS

FROM THE FIELD:

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, UCCE has undertaken a 5-year IPM project. One USDA partner reflected on the partnership:

“An essential part of this project is the drone flights you have been doing to collect remote sensing images of our research plots in commercial grower fields, as without it we will not be able to get the necessary results.”

~ Dr. Frank Martin, Research Plant Pathologist



RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Findings from a new study will be released in winter 2021, “Seasonal Changes in Forage Nutrient and Toxicity Levels on California Central Coast Rangelands-A Preliminary Study”. Information for nutrient values and toxin concentrations for many plants found on the Central Coast are included. If this year continues in drought, as it has started, this paper will provide much needed information about toxic plants and livestock interactions. Toxic plants may be a bigger concern during drought, as there may not be enough forage for livestock to eat. With low forage production, livestock may seek out other plants, which may be toxic.

NUTRITION EDUCATION

CalFresh Healthy Living, UCCE works with school communities in Santa Maria and Lompoc to provide nutrition, food security, and physical activity support services. During the COVID-19 pandemic and school closures, CalFresh has pivoted to online education for both youth and their families. From October to December, staff hosted a series of classroom nutrition lessons and family cooking classes in collaboration with the Santa Maria-Bonita School District, Lompoc Unified School District and the Santa Barbara Food Bank, reaching over 1,100 participants. Additionally, to promote food security, CalFresh staff have worked to maintain and enhance school gardens. Through these efforts, over 400 pounds of produce was harvested and donated to school meal programs and food pantries from October - December. CalFresh programming contributes to increased food security and community health in northern Santa Barbara County.



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

To ensure youth with limited or no access to the internet are engaged in Santa Barbara County, 4-H partnered with the Santa Barbara FoodBank. Together we delivered over 1,388 unplugged activities to youth in Santa Barbara County. When youth picked up their meals through the feeding program, they were also able to pick up fun and engaging activities they could do safely from the comfort of their own homes. Many of these activities focused on teaching youth about computer science through computational thinking.

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