

# UC Cooperative Extension in Santa Barbara County

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

## FROM THE FIELD:

*“My students have been learning about the plant cycle and this lesson was perfectly aligned with what we have been learning. They were able to plant a seed and make a greenhouse out of cups taped together. We also visited Hapgood's greenhouse afterwards. They are so excited to watch their plant grow.*

*~ Educator, Hapgood Elementary School*



Students exploring composting during a CalFresh Healthy Living, UC outdoor lesson.



Dr. Dara examining strawberries in Botrytis study plots

## ENTOMOLOGY & BIOLOGICALS

The Entomology & Biologicals Program completed a strawberry study evaluating various biological and chemical fungicides for managing botrytis fruit rot. The program is evaluating the potential of UV light in suppressing spider mites and botrytis in strawberry, different lures for monitoring the western grapeleaf skeletonizer, and mapping risk areas in California for the spotted lanternfly. These studies provide valuable information about managing the endemic pests and preparing for the potential invasion of an exotic pest.

## RANGELAND & WATERSHED

The Rangeland & Watershed Program is currently working with several advisors, a specialist from Berkeley, and professor from Utah State University to update the Rancher Sustainability Self-Assessment tool (RSA) in cooperation with California ranchers. This voluntary process will livestock producers in evaluating all aspects of their operations to ensure and enhance the sustainability of their production, their land, and their families. The RSA is designed to help ranchers consider what they do well, and where to make improvements to ensure proper stewardship of their land, resources, and livestock. The enhanced version, RSA 2.0, will be online and easier for livestock operators to complete the assessment process at their own convenience. RSA 2.0 will also provide instantaneous access to resources that can operators interpret and act upon the results of their self-assessment.



Avocado Big Leaf Homrone

## SUBTROPICAL CROPS

The Subtropical Crops Program hosted virtual meeting in April, which was attended by over 400 avocado growers. In the virtual meetings, presenters highlighted the Avocado Programs and faculty at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Presentation topics covered in the meeting, included pruning, pest management, root rot control, cover cropping, and a demonstration of how to build a berm. The entire program can viewed at this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjXDDDpzDRI>.

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