

UC Cooperative Extension in Santa Barbara County

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

FROM THE FIELD:

The Reimagining Defensible Space Project, supported by UCCE in Santa Barbara County, built a plant flammability testing unit. The project will create science-informed recommendations on wildfire-centric plant maintenance, species selection, and placement. In collaboration with the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, the project team will develop a list of native species for combustion testing to inform policy decisions on plant selection and defensible space.



Plant flammability testing unit
Photo courtesy of Kristina Fauss

~ Dr. Max Moritz, UCCE Wildfire Specialist



INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

The IPM program recently completed a vineyard study evaluating lures for the western grapeleaf skeletonizer. Additionally, the program [mapped risk-prone areas of the invasive spotted lanternfly](#) based on cultivated hosts, acreage, and value in different counties. Based on these maps, the entire state of California is at some level of risk, including Santa Barbara County. In addition to commercially produced crops, several backyard or landscape plant species such as roses, grapes, peaches, and plums are present throughout the state and can harbor spotted lanternfly.

NUTRITION EDUCATION

CalFresh Healthy Living, UC worked with low-income school communities in Santa Maria and Lompoc to provide nutrition, food security, and food safety support services. The program partnered with Santa Maria Parks and Recreation to train 20 youth enrolled in a virtual Teens Love Cooking camp in nutrition, meal planning, and food safety. Youth then had the opportunity to take the California Food Handler certification test as a pathway to potential employment in the food industry. In addition, CalFresh provided summer garden nutrition education to youth in the Lompoc Unified, reaching 238 students with hands on learning and education on growing food.



Students looking through microscopes to identify garden "pests" and "pals"

RSA University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources
California Rancher Sustainability Assessment

Assessment Library Login Register

NATURAL RESOURCES & WATERSHED

Ranchers provide food and fiber for the public, while making a living from the land. Ranches also provide many benefits for the public including, view sheds, improved air and water quality, agricultural recreation and hunting opportunities all while having to manage the day-to-day ranching operations. Working with several academics in California and Utah, we drafted an online version of the California Rancher Sustainability Assessment. The online version is currently being beta tested by a small group of ranchers to make any last-minute adjustments prior to releasing.



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