

UC Cooperative Extension in Santa Barbara County

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

FROM THE FIELD:

"I am so impressed with the students and the garden at Hapgood! Their passion for growing food was evident as the young scholars taught us about composting and what each part of plant contributes to in its growth. I want to thank the Cal Fresh [Healthy Living, UCCE] Program, all the parents and volunteers as well as the staff at Hapgood for supporting such an awesome learning experience in how our food grows."

~ Jenelle Osborne, Lompoc Mayor



Table with home food preservation information at Día de Los Niños in Santa Maria

MASTER FOOD PRESERVERS PROGRAM

The UC Master Food Preservers (MFP) in Santa Barbara County teach research-based practices of safe home food preservation. During April - June 2022, MFPs trained a new cohort of volunteers and presented food safety information at Día de Los Niños, a communitywide celebration of children and families hosted by the Santa Maria Public Library. MFP volunteers talked with kids, parents, and grandparents and distributed 300 free food safety and preservation kits which included flexible cutting mats, apple corers, food safety information, and recipe cards. These efforts have been shown to support healthy individuals and communities through reducing food borne illness and reducing food waste.

RANGELAND & WATERSHED

In recent months, the UCCE Livestock & Range program in Santa Barbara County has been working to support the expanded use of targeted grazing in the region. Targeted grazing is a broad term for when controlled grazing is planned and implemented in order to achieve specific vegetation management goals; for example, to eradicate invasive plants, to reduce fuel loading for wildfire, or to integrate weed management in cropping systems. This last quarter, Advisor Shapero has been working on a multi-year, statewide fire and grazing research project, funded by the UC Davis Rustici Rangeland and Cattle Endowment. For this effort, we have been experimentally manipulating biomass levels to mimic different grazing levels and then burning across the treatments in order to better understand and quantify how grazing impacts fire behavior. This past May, we burned on a Santa Barbara County ranch where research plots were installed, which will eventually be one of nine plots installed throughout the state. We anticipate having our research published by early 2023. The results should allow managers of rangelands to understand how and to what intensity grazing should be applied in order to achieve meaningful wildfire behavior reductions in grasslands to reduce ecological impacts from fire and to increase public safety.



Burn on a Santa Barbara County ranch research plot



Nature hike in a private Avocado Ranch with youth from People's Self-Help Housing site in Guadalupe, CA.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPEMENT

4-H Youth Development Program (YDP) in Santa Barbara County received a multi-year grant of \$699,943 to conduct outdoor education programs in Santa Barbara. In collaboration with People's Self-Help Housing, 4-H YDP will work to create access and quality education programs for low-income youth who live at Jardin de Las Rosas and in the surrounding communities. Through this grant, youth will participate in over 20 fieldtrips statewide to state and national recreation parks. The Outdoors Adventures Program will incorporate teaching youth about STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math), Equity, Leadership, and College and Career Readiness.

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Quarterly Report

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