

UC Cooperative Extension in Santa Barbara County

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

FROM THE FIELD:

"Thank you so much. I had so much fun today and the information was great! Thank you for this workshop! You all make it look so easy and fun!" -All About Apples Workshop Participants

"I loved the dilly beans workshop! My beans turned out super yummy, thank you!" -Lompoc Library Workshop Participant



Dilly Beans Workshop



Lompoc youth leaders present about their work teaching garden enhanced nutrition education and sustaining their school garden

NUTRITION EDUCATION

The CalFresh Healthy Living, UCCE program works with low-income schools, communities, and youth-serving organizations in northern Santa Barbara County to provide nutrition education, food security, physical activity, and positive youth development programming. During July-September 2022, staff connected with families through virtual Family Cook Nights and provided nutrition education to over 700 families at the Healthy School Pantry, Santa Barbara Food Bank distributions. In addition, 8 student garden leaders from Hapgood Elementary presented at the California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference. Their presentation focused on the responsibilities of garden leaders and concluded with a garden lesson demonstration. These efforts support healthy people and communities and the development of an inclusive and equitable society.

FIRE ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

Two local projects affiliated with the Moritz Lab continue to make solid progress. The "Reimagining Defensible Space" student project finished flammability testing on the first round of native landscaping plants (image below), results of which will eventually inform customers visiting the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden nursery. The Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council has acquired additional funding from CAL FIRE to support the [Santa Barbara Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program \(RWMP\)](#), and several new communities have received Fire Wise USA recognition. On the research front, [a new paper on forecasting maps of regional fire danger](#) (via live fuel moisture patterns) has been published; key findings are there may be multiple drought-related thresholds in live fuel moisture that mark the beginning of the fire season and when it transitions to "extreme" conditions.



Reimagining Defensible Space" student project



Heavy Oats Cover Crop in a Vineyard

WATER RESOURCES & BIOMETEOROLOGY

There is growing interest among producers of vine and orchard crops in California to increase the use of cover crops. This is driven both by producer interest to increase the sustainability of their operations as well as by government programs to improve soil health. However, in regions which are dry and where cold temperature conditions can occur, the increased use of these cover crops can potentially lead to undesirable outcomes for a producer. The 2022 season on the Central Coast was an example, being affected by both drought conditions as well as spring frost. Vineyards which had more extensive growth of cover crops later into the spring often showed symptoms of early vine water stress, reduced vine growth, and nutrient deficiencies particularly of potassium later in the summer. Similarly, vineyards with cover crops present in the spring were more susceptible to suffer frost damage. Thus, the increased use of cover crops should be carried out with caution to ensure that such management does not exacerbate other challenges such as drought and frost.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
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