

# UC Cooperative Extension in Santa Barbara County



4-H SNAC (Student Nutrition Advisory Council) youth develop culinary, food safety, food preservation, and presentation skills at the 2023 Culinary Academy. Photo: A Torres

*“This program helped families discover healthy eating habits and learn new recipes that were both nutritious and delicious. They gained practical skills to make informed food choices as they prepared meals for their families. The classes shared fundamental basics and tips for preparing meals, as well as hands-on cooking which parents and children really enjoyed.”*

- Family Advocate Outreach Supervisor, SMBSD



## Strengthening Local Communities

UCCE supports Santa Barbara County through applied research and education in agriculture, natural resources, nutrition, and youth development to support the economic vitality of local agriculture and promote healthy, safe, and resilient communities. Our educators and academics live and work locally, expanding the reach of the University of California to engage all people and communities in identifying practical, science-based solutions to local problems. We partner with public, private, and community-based entities to support healthy communities, food systems, and environments.



UC Master Food Preserver volunteers providing hands-on education in Santa Maria. Photo: UCCE

## Developing a Qualified Workforce

UCCE’s programs equip youth for college, successful careers, and to be engaged in their communities. We empower workers and growers to use cutting-edge research to advance innovation. UC ANR helps develop a qualified workforce and promotes healthy communities to increase opportunities and ensure a robust and thriving economy.

**386**  
Volunteers

**17,578**  
Volunteer Hours

## The Year in Volunteers

Each year, UCCE volunteers donate their time to extend proven solutions. They help make San Luis Obispo County residents and communities more sustainable, protect our natural resources, and empower us to be healthy, successful, and productive.

**\$656,000**  
Value of Volunteer Service Hours

## 4-H Youth Development Program

4-H empowers young people with skills to lead for a lifetime  
**San Luis Obispo County 4-H Clubs** participate in countywide events that challenge youth to demonstrate their skills in public speaking, leadership, community service and much more. In total, 4-H serves:

- **2,414** youth involved in 4-H
- **182** youth and adult volunteers
- **12,378** volunteer hours



4-H youth are  
**4X**  
more likely to  
give back to  
their community



4-H youth leaders sharing their animals at a local senior center Dec 2023. Photo: UCCE



Student leaders hosting a garden education table for families. Photo: K Hong

## CalFresh Healthy Living, UCCE

- **92** volunteer teacher extenders
- **705** volunteer hours of service
- **3,053** adults and youth reached

CalFresh Healthy Living collaborates with schools, families, and youth-serving organizations in Santa Maria and Lompoc to provide evidence-based nutrition education and physical activity programming. We work to improve skills related to cooking, growing food, and identifying healthy changes. *This work contributes to improved health and wellness.*

## UC Master Food Preservers



- **11** volunteers
- **1,117** volunteer hours
- **\$41,686** in Community Services

## UC Master Gardeners



- **76** volunteers
- **2,518** volunteer hours
- **1,041** community members reached

UCCE trains, certifies, and supports community volunteers to engage the public through education, service, and citizen science. Volunteers host science-based workshops on vegetable gardening, attracting pollinators, preserving food, and protecting our natural resources. They also respond to helpline inquiries from the public, conduct outreach, and write popular articles on timely topics.

## Environmental Stewards



- **25** volunteers
- **1,160** hours of volunteer service

*These efforts contribute to the protection and conservation of local soil quality, improved water quality and conservation, improved health, and food safety and security.*



UC Master Gardeners providing home horticulture education at the SB Farmers Market. Photo: UCCE

## UCCE Advisor-led Meetings, Courses, and Workshops

**715** growers, landowners, and agency partners attended **61** UCCE Advisor-led education events to increase their knowledge and capacity to:

- prevent wildfire and create fire resilient landscaping,
- prevent invasive weeds and pests,
- improve sustainability, and
- increase capacity to support diverse members of our community

*These efforts contribute to increased agricultural efficiency and profitability, ecological sustainability, and improved health for all*



UCCE Advisor hosting a Livestock & Range workshop. Photo: UCCE