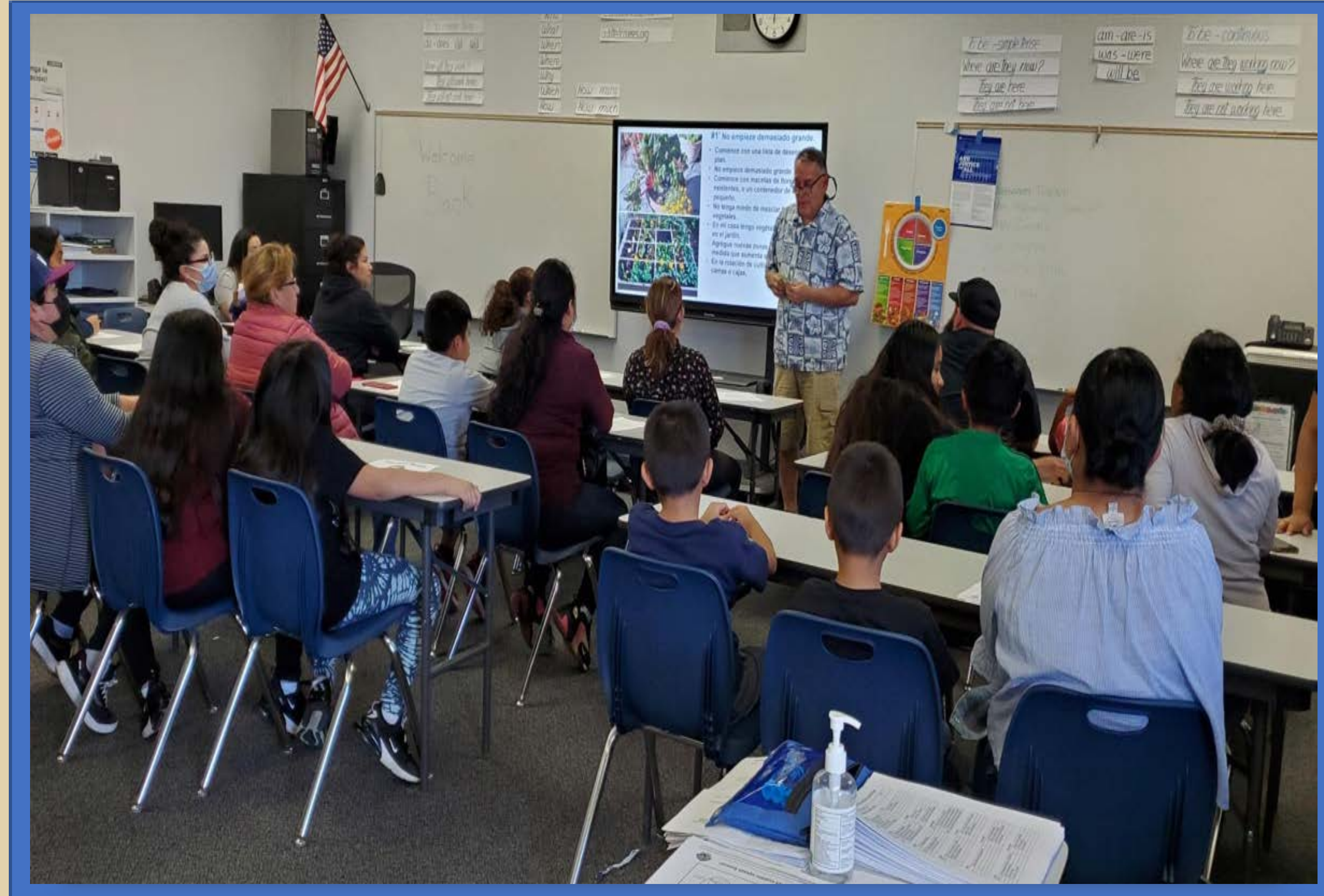


# CFHL, UCCE Madera Partners with Master Gardeners

## Bringing Parents Together for a Spring Garden Workshop



### Introduction

In Spring of 2021, CalFresh Healthy Living, University of California Cooperative Extension (CFHL, UCCE) Madera County collaborated with UCCE Madera County Master Gardener Program to pilot virtual garden education to parents across the school district with the support of Madera Unified School District (MUSD) Parent Resource Center (PRC).

Parent feedback following the Spring Garden Workshop was so positive that in Spring of 2022 a two-part workshop was planned that consisted of a virtual and in-person component. The virtual workshop provided parents with the knowledge behind gardening and the in-person session gave parents the opportunity to engage in the food demonstration and learn hands-on gardening techniques from local Master Gardener volunteer.



### The Work

CFHL, UCCE Madera met with Madera County Master Gardener Program and MUSD PRC over a series of Zoom calls to plan and organize the workshop presentation.

- CFHL, UCCE and Madera County Master Gardener Program delivered the summer squash lesson from the Fresh from the Garden curriculum.
- CFHL, UCCE prepared the recipe for participants to try.
- CFHL, UCCE coordinated with Madera Master Gardener Program to put together a garden kit that supported the content taught in the workshop.
- PRC promoted the workshop to parents district wide.

### The Impact

Workshop participants received technical assistance from the Master Gardener with their own gardens and were provided a garden kit that contained: soil, pot, seeds, a tomato plant, and a garden themed coloring page for their children. The garden workshop reached 30 parents in 2021 and 84 parents in 2022.

*"I learned so much, learned a little about how to treat infestations that can be found on our plants, how to take care of tomatoes and what I was most surprised to learn was that avocado and cherry trees need to be next to another plant of their same species in order to pollinate themselves."* -Participant



### The Future

Parents expressed the need to learn more about gardening to become better equipped with caring for their own gardens throughout the different gardening seasons. CFHL, UCCE Madera County will continue to collaborate with the UCCE Master Gardener program and MUSD PRC to provide garden workshops for parents.

*"I would love to learn more about how to prepare soil before planting vegetables and how to make garden beds so that I don't have to plant in planters."* -Participant



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