

University of California Cooperative Extension  
Merced County

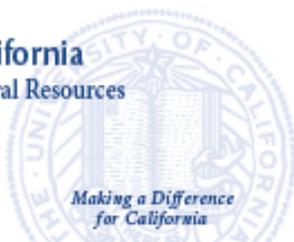
# ANNUAL REPORT

2010



*Making a Difference for Merced County.*

University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources



**University of California  
Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Strategic Vision**

ANR envisions a thriving California in 2025 where healthy food systems, healthy environments, and healthy people and communities are strengthened by a close partnership between the University of California and its research and extension programs and the people of the state.

The University of California and its Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) represent a partnership of four world-renowned science and education communities on three UC campuses, a UC presence in all California counties, an unmatched system of research locations and expertise, recognized leadership in special program areas, and an internationally recognized community of Cooperative Extension professionals.

UC ANR professionals have a unique, proven, respected ability to bring together the resources needed to solve tough problems. UC ANR people, programs, and science-based solutions bridge conflicting interests by bringing new knowledge, targeted research, and local education to complex problems.

California of 2025 will face many complex challenges related to increases in global and domestic populations and changes in climate and land use patterns. To thrive and prosper, Californians must have solutions to a wide range of existing and new challenges.

Cover:

Aerial photo courtesy of  
Larry Burrow.

# University of California Cooperative Extension Merced County

## *Making a Difference for Merced County*

I am pleased to report that 2010 was another productive year for the Cooperative Extension office. It is the privilege of all of us to serve the residents of Merced County. Residents with a wide range of questions from commercial farming to the home landscapes have been provided current and science-based information as our Advisors continue to gain and share new knowledge through their research and educational programs right here in Merced County.

Young persons from all over the county have been given the opportunity to develop leadership skills, develop healthy lifestyles and grow life-long friendships through our Merced County 4-H Youth Development Program. I cannot convey the pride we have in their achievements.

Cooperative Extension is unique because of our very large network of volunteers. Our 4-H and Master Gardener volunteers work hard to make our county a great place to live and raise capable young people.

As you read through the pages of this report we hope you'll see the positive affects of the resources of the USDA, the University of California and the County of Merced. We are applying an extensive team effort to bring solutions for concerns of families, growers and others back to the local community .

For more information about any of our programs please contact us.

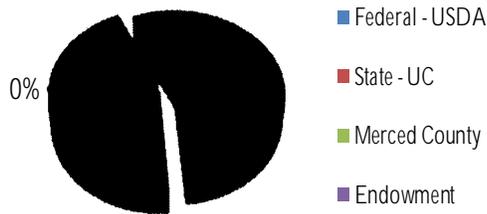


Maxwell Norton  
Farm Advisor

# Program Funding

## 2010 Support for Operations and Programs

Sources of Funding For the  
Merced County Cooperative Extension Office  
2010 Total: \$1,595,695



Cooperative Extension is a unique joint venture between the three levels of government. This partnership brings together the USDA at the federal level, The Land Grant University at the state level (University of California) and the County of Merced locally. While a small part is endowed each of the three partners have and play an important role in the overall functions of the Cooperative Extension office. This operations support is vital for organizing, preparing, and serving the clientele needs in our day-to-day functions. Clientele contacts in the office, on farm visits, by phone, via e-mail, by web, and general meetings.

### Program Support

In addition to the general office support that provides an operational framework many specialized programs, studies, and research activities require additional support.

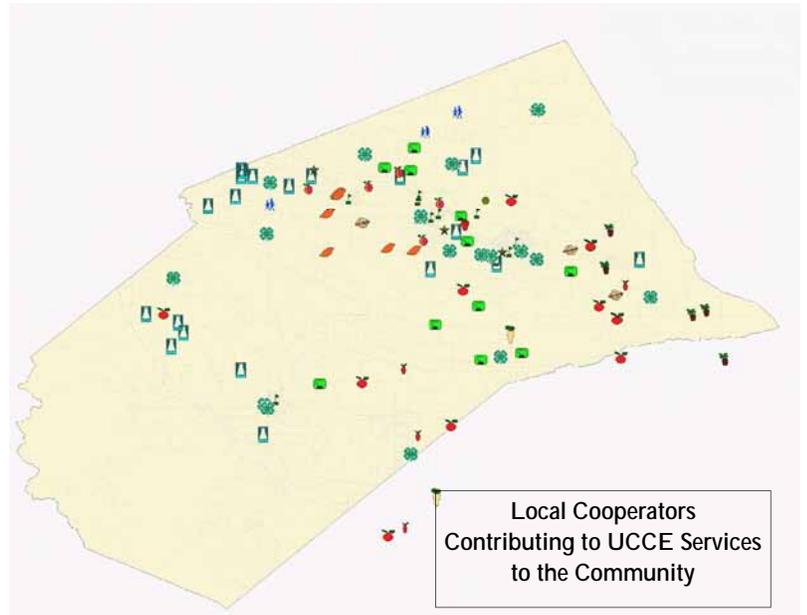
Our Advisors as UC academics have Principle Investigator (PI) status allowing them to lead and collaborate on research grants and projects.

During the 2010 year Merced County Advisors leveraged over \$700,000 of funds to assist in the conducting of specific program studies and research that need more funds than the operations budget can provide.



Additional 4-H program support is provided through donations, fundraising, and participant fees. These funds are used for youth conferences, camps, and events. These are also used for recognition and awards for members and volunteers.

# Service to the Community



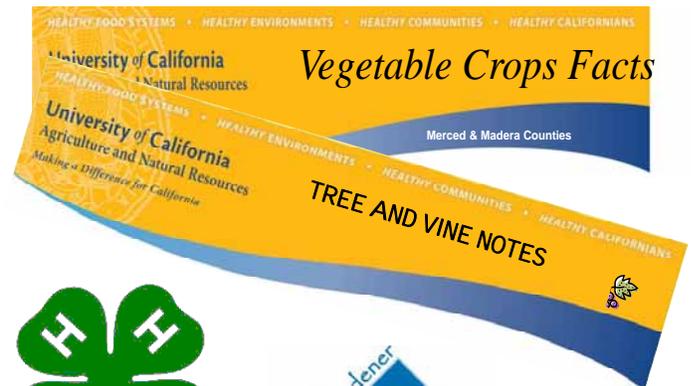
Services to  
the Farmers, Consumers,  
Youth, and Families  
of Merced

## 2010 Contacts:

- 8,938 Newsletters mailed
- 48,915 Newsletters electronically sent
- 142 Publications sold
- 3,775 Telephone calls received
- 1,849 Visitors to our office
- 80,315 Web site visitors

## 2010 Formal Volunteers:

- 245 4-H Leaders
- 38 Master Gardeners
- 4 Master Gardeners in training



# Merced County

2010

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## County Director

**Richard Mahacek**

## Advisors

**Alejandro Castillo**

Dairy

**David Doll**

Pomology

**Richard Mahacek**

4-H Youth Development

**Maxwell Norton**

Trees and Vines

**Scott Stoddard**

Vegetables

## Cross-County Advisors

**Gregory Billikopf** - Stanislaus

Labor Management

**Terri Spezzano** - Stanislaus

Nutrition, Family, and Consumer Science

## Emeritus Advisors

**Jim Farley**

**Lonnie Hendricks**

**Bob Scheuerman**

**Bill Weir**

## Program and Support Staff

**Darlene McIntyre**

4-H Program Representative

**Liliana Agundis de Aguilera**

FSNEP Program Representative

**Houa Lee**

FSNEP Program Representative

## Summer and Part Time Staff

**Daniel Brooks**

Student Intern - Merced Community College

**K Chico**

Student Intern - UC Merced

**Ernesto Mora-Lua**

Student Intern - UC Merced

**Octaviano Peneda**

Student Intern - Merced Community College

**Danny Xiong**

Student Intern - UC Merced

## County Support Staff

**Larry Burrow**

Agriculture Field Technician

**Cathy Marks**

Office Manager

4-H Secretary

**Amelia Lopez**

Office Assistant

# County Staff

## Cathy Marks, Office Manager



Our office's programs grew again this year. From new research projects begun by our Farm Advisors to the creation of a new 4-H Robotics curriculum to a larger Master Gardener volunteer force, we've raised our level of offerings and service to our community. It's exciting progress and I'm pleased to be a part of the team. I provided support to the Advisors and their assistants by serving as secretary to our County Director and Farm Advisors as well as managing the accounting for the County and UC budgets, contracts, reports, records, and purchasing. It gives me satisfaction knowing that I am able to support the work of the Advisors by performing these office duties so that they are able to devote more of their time to their valuable research and education projects and have more freedom to connect with our community.



I am also, once again, serving as our office's 4-H Secretary. I enjoyed the year being back working with the wonderful Merced County 4-H community, helping them with their enrollments, project curriculum, event preparations, and record-keeping. Through this involvement I am witness to the extraordinary difference 4-H makes in a young person's life and in positive youth development.

## Amelia Lopez, Office Assistant



As Office Assistant I served as receptionist for our office. I greeted and helped the public who visited our office looking for agriculture, family consumer, and 4-H information. I was able to help them with publications for that information and connect them with one of our Advisors. Serving as Office Assistant, I provided clerical support to our Advisors, Program Representatives, and Office Manager. For the Advisors I prepared their newsletters, sent out meeting notices, and assisted with their meeting preparations.

I maintained our educational publications with attention to updates and restocking. I managed our classroom reservations, office maintenance, mailings and statistical records.

I also helped enter 4-H enrollments, event preparations, and filing.

## Larry Burrow, Agriculture Field Technician



As the Agricultural Field Technician I provide support to the research activities of all Merced County Cooperative Extension personnel. In 2010 this included planting, spraying and harvesting tomatoes, sweet potatoes, and almonds. Utilizing data from our county Ag Commissioner's files I generated reports and maps to be used in targeting specific groups of growers, posted research results and various other publications on our county website and set up meetings.

I also participated in County 4-H Program activities and provided assistance with setup of various events and projects. This year's activities included leading woodworking sessions at the 4-H State Leadership Conference at UC Davis and at the 4-H Mechanical Skills Day, as well as assistance with 4-H Camp and the Annual Dinner Auction.

In my role as Office Safety Coordinator I oversaw our office response to a safety audit by the ANR Safety Team, organized employee safety training and applied for funds for various safety projects.

## Pomology

David Doll, Farm Advisor



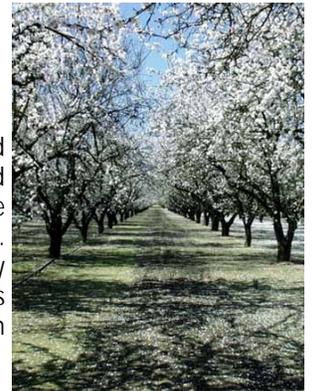
### Second Trial Studying Fumigant Alternatives for Orchard Replanting Established in Merced County

Orchard replanting is one of the most critical times of orchard maintenance. Almond orchards removed and replanted back into almond often demonstrate symptoms of slow growth, yellow leaves, and in some cases tree death. The precautionary measures of soil fumigation can prevent the occurrence of this disease, but are facing increasing scrutiny for their environmental impact. To study the effects of fumigants and alternatives to fumigants, a ten acre almond replant trial was established in the Ballico area. This trial is studying the four different fumigants and their effect on tree growth as well as the non-fumigant alternatives of tree site steam, brassica seed meal, and a commercially available biological. All treatments have been applied, and trees were planted this past January. The experiment will be followed for the next six to eight years. This project will help local growers make the proper decision about fumigation upon replanting an almond orchard.

### The Almond Doctor: An Online Forum for Research-Based Information, News, and Timely Information

<http://www.thealmonddoctor.com>

Considerable time has been spent in the continual development of the website "The Almond Doctor" (<http://www.thealmonddoctor.com>). The website focuses on providing weekly updates of almond growing conditions and/or tips based upon research performed by the University of California. Topics have included disease diagnosis and control, pest management, horticultural practices, and almond news updates. This online form of extension allows users to ask questions and comment on articles written. From January through December 2010, 22,533 hits with 43,171 page views were made on the website from 134 countries and all 50 states. Over 70% of the hits came from within California with an estimated 1,100 hits from



### Summer Almond Meeting Held in Merced

On June 23rd nearly 100 growers attended an almond meeting discussing the topics of orchard replanting, summer disease and pest management, and nutrient management. Growers provided good feedback and are looking forward to future meetings.

Meetings Hosted: 3

Presentations Delivered: 25

Farm Visits: 95

Telephone Calls Received: 526

Authored Publications: 56

Research Project Collaborations: 3

Direct Contacts made: 3,685



## Trees and Vines

Maxwell Norton, Farm Advisor



### Ag Tourism

Working with community volunteers, 2010 saw the roll-out of Merced County's first **audio tour**. The first audio tour featured the Road to Yosemite – Hwy 140 from Merced to Mariposa. Featured is area history, other places to visit in the Merced County, overview of agriculture, and other interesting features. Copies are being given to tour bus drivers that pass through the area. Anyone can download the tour

for free by going to <http://countryventures.org/hwy140tour> and downloading the files to your MP3 player or laptop computer.

Also in 2010 we Cooperative Extension sponsored the first ever **ag tourism workshop**. Experts from around the state presented to a large local audience their ideas about starting and supporting visitor-related businesses in the county. Many resources were made available to future entrepreneurs. The workshop also offered a networking opportunity for those attending. Many business cards were exchanged and ideas shared.

I launched an **ag tourism web site** to be a ready source of resources to those wishing to learn more about this area of economic development. By going to <http://cemerced.ucdavis.edu/> and selecting "ag tourism" many publications, presentations and links are provided. We will continue posting additional information as it becomes available.

### Mechanical Blossom Thinning in Peaches

Hand thinning is an expensive and labor intensive process. Like all stone fruit, if you do not aggressively thin the fruit early in spring they will be too small to be of commercial value. In order to help the peach industry become more competitive in the global market place, we have been working on reducing peak labor costs. The competition from foreign producers is intense and reducing costs is a must.

### New Fig Varieties

Planada is the home of a special planting of new seedling crosses of figs. With the help of the grower who is hosting the planting, these seedlings will be weeded down to just a few for advanced testing. It is hoped that these advanced selections may some day become new commercially viable varieties for either drying or for fresh consumption. Merced County is the second largest fig county in North America. The climate here is ideal for producing this fruit, which requires ample water and good soils.



### Biological Control in Peaches

2010 was the second of a two year project to demonstrate advanced integrated pest management practices in peaches. Several peach growers have volunteered to be active participants. These farms were intensively monitored every week. We consulted with the farmers about modifying practices. Field days and formal presentations were used to extend this technology to farmers who are hungry for the latest information.



### Outreach to Strawberry Growers

Each year we have a special meeting for strawberry growers. The latest information about farming practices is presented. In 2010 we also had a special session about food safety practices in the field and during transport. Food contamination scares can be costly to the whole industry. Growers left the meeting with training materials that they could share with their workers.

# Vegetable Crops

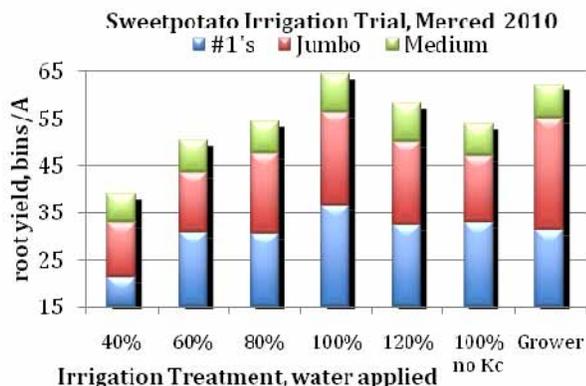
Scott Stoddard, Farm Advisor, Merced and Madera Counties



## Sweetpotato Irrigation Trial

A field research project  
with Bob Weimer, Weimer Farms, Atwater

The severe drought of 2008 – 2009 initiated the request from growers to investigate the water requirements of growing sweetpotatoes in Merced County. Drip irrigation was first tried on this crop about 20 years ago, and is now used on about 95% of production acreage. Early trials were concerned more about the best methods to deliver water; the object of this trial was to determine the impact of various amounts of water on root yield and size distribution. Six treatments were tested by watering between 40% to 120% of the crop's estimated requirements. This corresponded to 15 to 33 inches per acre of applied water in 2010. Yield increased as water amount increased up to 100%, then declined slightly. The results of this project suggest that irrigation of 25 – 30 inches (2 to 2.5 acre feet) optimizes commercial sweetpotato production. Additional research is planned in 2011.



## UCCE Statewide Processing Tomato Variety Evaluation Trial

A multi-site variety trial,  
A-Bar Ranch, Los Banos.

Tomatoes are an important crop for Merced County and the state; in 2010, tomatoes (processing and fresh market) in California were a \$1.1 billion industry with the crop grown on 38,500 acres of fresh market and 268,000 acres of processing tomatoes. Typically, more than 20,000 acres are grown in Merced. California produces over 90% of the processing tomatoes in the United States. Variety development is an important component to keep the industry at the forefront of technical innovation. UCCE farm advisors each year conduct coordinated, regional processing tomato variety trials in several counties throughout the state. Varieties are selected after extensive discussions among farm advisors, commercial processors and seed companies. The tests are then conducted with a cooperating grower in producing tomato fields, using commercial harvesters, which gives a high degree of confidence that the data represent real world conditions. The information collected in these trials contributes to yield and quality



## Evaluation of fungicides for *Sclerotinia* control in Radicchio.

A field efficacy trial conducted in Le Grand  
with J. Marchini & Sons.



There are very few registered fungicides for use in radicchio, one of the few commercial winter crops grown in Merced County. Radicchio, sometimes known as red chicory, looks similar to cabbage, but with purple leaves and bitter flavor. It is commonly used in commercial salad bag mixes. *Sclerotinia* is a soil fungal pathogen that frequently infects the leaves and roots of radicchio, causing a soft brown decay and eventual death of the plants. Management of the disease is very

difficult, as it can survive in the soil for many years. The objective of this trial was to evaluate the efficacy of two recently registered products on controlling this problem under typical growing conditions. Several different rates and timing of applications were evaluated. Results indicate that the fungicides do help suppress the problem; additional work is needed to optimize rates and timing. This information should help growers of this crop improve disease management and increase marketable yield.

## Other projects in 2010:

### Tomato Worm Control Trials.

Efficacy trials in Le Grand

### Tomato Powdery Mildew Trials.

Efficacy trial with San Juan Ranch, Dos Palos.

### Bindweed Herbicide Trial in Processing Tomatoes

A-Bar Ranch, Los Banos

### Foliar fertilizer evaluation on tomatoes.

2 locations near Dos Palos

### TSWV and thrips monitoring in tomato fields

Year 4 of a monitoring project in 5 locations in county

### Drip Irrigated Processing Tomatoes on 80-inch beds

Year 2 of an applied research trial conducted at the Westside Research and Extension Center, Fresno

### National Sweetpotato Collaborators Variety Trial.

Variety trial with Blaine Yagi, Yagi Farms, Livingston

### LSU Sweetpotato Advanced Line Trial.

Variety trial with D&S Farms, Atwater

### Dual Magnum herbicide trial in sweetpotatoes

Efficacy trial with Paul Espinola, Turlock.

### Covington Plant Spacing Trial

Field trial with Silva Farms in Livingston.

### Sweetpotato Field Nematicide Trial

Fumigation/nematicide test plot with Jantz Farms.

### Methyl bromide fumigation alternatives for sweetpotato hotbeds in California.

Fumigation test plot with D&S Farms, Atwater.

# Dairy

Alejandro Castillo, Farm Advisor



## Nutrient Balances and Production Efficiency

To reduce the fixed costs and improve production efficiency dairies are increasing in scale (sizes, number of cows, and milk yield per cow). For this reason my focus of work this year was analyzing information on nutrient balances and production efficiency in dairy herds. My goal was to disseminate this information to dairymen, consultants, and other members of the public through articles describing results in newsletters, abstracts, and peer review papers, as well as presentations.



**Table 1.** Relationship between milk yield/cow, dairy scales, feed conversion and nitrogen (N) utilization efficiencies

Items	Milk Yield per Cow	
	Low (<70lb)	High (>70lb)
Feed Conversion	1.25	1.50
N. Utilization Efficiency	0.21	0.26

Summary of the positive impact in 40 dairy farms of milk yield per cow (mean 70 lb/cow/d) on Nitrogen and Feed Conversion Efficiencies.



**Table 2.** The four top variables positively affecting Feed Conversion (FC) and Nitrogen Utilization Efficiency (NUE)

Items	FC	Rank	NUE	Rank
Milk Yield per cow	(+)	1 <sup>st</sup>	(+)	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Feed Conversion	---	---	(+)	1 <sup>st</sup>
N. Utilization Efficiency	(+)	2 <sup>nd</sup>	---	---
Total Mixed Ration	(+)	3 <sup>rd</sup>	(+)	4 <sup>th</sup>
Non Fiber Carbohydrates	(+)	4 <sup>th</sup>	(+)	3 <sup>rd</sup>

## New Projects:

### Reducing Greenhouse Gases Emission

With Dr. Mitloehner's team at UC Davis, evaluate the possible supplementation to introduce minerals to manure through the cows to reduce green house gases air emissions, mainly N<sub>2</sub>O. This project received financial support from a private company (Alltech Co.).

### Outreach Activities

I was invited to work as UC Cooperative Extension Dairy Advisor for the project titled "Assessment of Whole Farm Sustainability and Mitigation of Emissions from Dairy Production Systems in the Arid West." Project Chair Ermias Kereab (UC Davis, Animal Science)



Technical Presentations made at various meetings

Educational Presentations: 7

Including two posters at the annual American Dairy Science Association meeting in Denver, CO.

## Labor Management

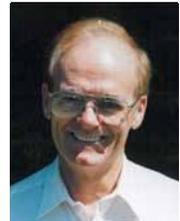
**Gregory Billikopf, Farm Advisor**  
*(Cross County with Stanislaus/Merced /San Joaquin Counties)*



Website, books, and meetings on personnel management are offered for producers and labor management. Negotiation and conflict management are expertise to be shared by Dr. Billikopf.

## Agronomic Crops

**Bill Weir, Farm Advisor Emeritus**



Farm Advisor Emeritus Bill Weir continued his service to cotton growers in Merced County during the 2009 season. Bill assisted with the variety trials on the west side that looked at both Pima and Upland cotton varieties. The annual cotton variety trials have been conducted annually by UCCE Farm Advisors since the early 1980's.

## Student Support

**Daniel Brooks, Merced Community College, Student Assistant**

**K Chico, UC Merced, Student Assistant**

**Ernesto Mora-Lua, UC Merced, Student Assistant**

**Octaviano Peneda, Merced Community College, Student Assistant**

**Danny Xiong, UC Merced, Student Assistant**

Students from our California universities and colleges participated in Merced County's U.C. Cooperative Extension research and programs. This year these students assisted with our Advisors' research in water quality, sweet potato and tomato crops, drip irrigation, fumigation alternatives, and the 4-H Robotics Program.



Daniel Brooks



Danny Xiong and Ernesto Mora-Lua



K Chico

# Master Gardener Program

David Doll, Farm Advisor



The UC Master Gardener Program is a volunteer-based program that extends University of California researched-based information on back-yard gardening to the general public. 2010 has been a pivotal growing year for the Master Garden Program in Merced County. The program held its first-ever training class in Merced County in 2010. Twenty-six Merced County residents took the 50 hour training course and test to become a UC Master Gardener. Our current 38 UC Master Gardeners come from Atwater, Dos Palos, Le Grand, and Merced.



## Golden Valley Health Center Community Garden Project

The close association with Golden Valley Health Center in south Merced continued with additional gardening classes where Master Gardeners were the speakers on topics ranging from container planting, pests, winter gardening, and composting.



## Master Gardeners at Merced's Certified Farmers Market

The Master Gardeners hosted a booth at the Merced downtown Certified Farmers Market on Saturdays every other week throughout the summer and fall as well as at the Los Banos Market once a month through the summer. Master Gardeners also participated in the renewed Thursday evening "Summerfest" event in downtown Merced. These booths provided gardening tips, information on gardening and a venue for the public to receive answers to their questions on gardening.

## Master Gardeners Available to Help

The manning of a help line at the UCCE office started in September of 2010. The help line provides a resource for the public to talk to a Master Gardener for help solving a gardening problem they may be having or just to answer a question. A Master Gardener is in the office to talk with visitors in person and on the telephone every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



## Master Gardeners Partner with 4-H Youth Development

Our program also began an association with 4-H by being speakers on gardening for a new 4-H club emphasizing gardening.

## Public Workshops

The UC Master Gardener program provided two public workshops on Mistletoe and Rose Pruning with plans to continue workshops in the future.



UC Master Gardeners 2010: 38  
(26 were newly trained and accepted)

Presentations Delivered: 45

Community Events Attended: 36

House Visits: 12

Direct Contacts Made: 2,654

Volunteer Hours: 1,438



# Nutrition, Family, and Consumer Science

Terri Spezzano, NFCS Advisor, Stanislaus and Merced Counties



Nutrition education is imperative in Merced. Obesity rates have increased greatly in the last 20 years. Obesity and Childhood Overweight has been shown to be significantly associated with diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, asthma, arthritis and overall poor health status. The Healthy People 2010 Objective is to not have more than 15% of adults ages 20 and older report being obese. The percentage of obese adults increased in Merced Counties as well as California from 2001 to 2010 according to CHIS. Moreover, in each survey year Merced has had higher percentages of obese adults (67.3%) and children (15%) than the State of California (57.1% and 11.2% respectively).



## Staff

In Merced County, our Advisor and staff of two professionals, Houa Lee and Lili Agundis de Aguilera bring a wide range of experience. Their deep understanding on nutrition, health and related issues make them invaluable conduits of University-based information to our low-income communities.



## FSNEP

The University of California Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program (UC-FSNEP) provides evidenced-based nutrition education to food stamp recipients and other low-income individuals and families in collaboration with local partners. We act as a vital bridge between the learning and knowledge of the UC system and our community, tailoring the latest science, curriculum and information to the needs, culture and language of our low-income communities. Our goal is to help these families and youth in making better nutrition decisions, maximize limited food budgets and plug-in to our counties' unique opportunities.

## Programs

Our programs reach youth, families and seniors. Here is a brief description:

Reading Across My Pyramid, a UC Davis nutrition curricula for K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers

Power Play, a Network for Healthy California curricula for 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers

Eat Fit and Walk Fit, UC Davis nutrition and Physical Activity curriculum for 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers

Eating Smart, Being Active, adult nutrition curriculum

Making Every Dollar Count, to help families stretch their food dollars



## Impact in Merced County

UC-FSNEP is making a vital impact in our community, providing our community's most vulnerable populations with the information they need to make healthier, wiser food choices.

In 2009-2010:

2,270 Children Served  
30 Schools Served  
175 Teachers Helped

175 Teachers Helped  
77 Classes Taught  
550 Adults Serve

## Successes

Merced County children and adults who participated in UC-FSNEP changed their behaviors in the following ways:

- More students reported willingness to try fruits and vegetables
- Hand-washing rates among students increased
- Teachers now encourage students to eat a healthy breakfast
- 61% of adults read labels before purchasing food

## Our Partners

Dedicated to leveraging every opportunity, FSNEP collaborates with organizations and entities to maximize our successes.

- Golden Valley Health Center
- Central Valley Opportunity Center
- Merced County 4-H
- Gustine Unified School District
- Dos Palos Oro Loma Joint Unified School District
- ASSETS Afterschool Program
- Cal Fresh
- Merced Public Housing
- Boys and Girls Club
- United Way
- Nineveh Outreach

# 4-H Youth Development

Richard Mahacek, 4-H Youth Development Advisor



During this year we had a transition in our 4-H Program Representative with Russ Hill accepting a position in the State 4-H office to work on military youth programming. After about a five month void, Darlene McIntyre was selected to fill this position and is rapidly learning the program and providing leadership to the volunteers. Since only part of an FTE is allocated from state funding, local resources and grants are used to assist in providing additional local programming. During the summer, an intern Jennifer Ray worked on various projects including marketing and visibility. Additional student assistants continued work on the national funded development of 4-H robotics curriculum.

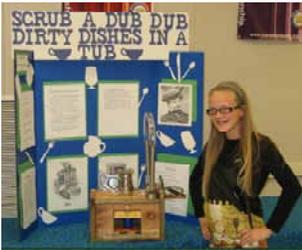


## Resource Development

We worked with the state 4-H Foundation, local 4-H Management Team and Sponsoring committee on planning for fund development. This is an ongoing effort having 3 or 4 meetings during the year to examine and plan for cooperative ways to provide additional resources for the county program. While a slow process, this effort is continuing into the next year to follow the progress.

## Youth Development

As 4-H Youth Development Advisor I focus on both engagement of youth and in youth development. This has included coaching National 4-H Conference participant Jamie Xiong, hosting the Regional 4-H Presentation day at Tenaya Middle School, reconnecting with the Housing Authority in programming, and providing club officer and leadership training event at the Castle Science and Tech Center. Continued efforts working with the BHC planning and with the P-16 and WIA Youth Council keep positive youth development as an interest in the community.



## Science Engineering and Technology

I continued serving on the state 4-H SET Leadership Team providing resources statewide but also connected locally with many SET opportunities. Hosted events and trainings in Merced included one site of the annual state 4-H SET Winter workshops, A TechXcite curriculum training workshop, Mechanical Skills Day event held at the Castle Science and Technology Center, and Monthly 4-H SET workshops for teens and afterschool staff. I also coordinated a team of staff, volunteers, and teens to present a session in Denver, CO. at the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). This included Richard Mahacek, Spencer Downey, Danny Leong, and four others from Kern and Santa Cruz Counties. Development and final drafts of the Junk Drawer Robotics curriculum were completed and submitted to national 4-H for peer review and acceptance.



Presentation team at the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) in Denver, CO.

3,775 Members

245 4-H Leaders

## Cooperating with and serving Merced County since 1917

### Farm Advisors ...

... work to enhance California agricultural productivity and competitiveness. Together with farmers, pest control advisors, and industry representatives, they identify current and emerging agricultural opportunities and problems. The advisors collaborate with campus-based Cooperative Extension specialists and Agricultural Experiment Station scientists to research, adapt, and field-test agricultural improvements or solutions and promote the use of research findings.

### Nutrition, Family and Consumer Sciences Advisors ...

... focus on nutrition, food safety, food preparation, food preservation, and finance management. Collaborative partnerships with government and private agencies extend the reach of UC advisors. Workshops, public meetings, newsletters, the mass media, and other communications tools bring information to the community.

### 4-H Youth Development Advisors ...

... provide meaningful, learn-by-doing educational activities to children in 4-H clubs, camps, school enrichment and after-school programs. They also provide information and resources for youth development to the community.

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## University of California - Cooperative Extension - Merced County

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<http://cemerced.ucdavis.edu> √ <http://merced4h.ucdavis.edu>

email: [cemerced@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cemerced@ucdavis.edu)

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This report is also available on our website.

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University of California, United States Department of Agriculture, and Merced County Cooperating

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