

The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) is the bridge between local issues and the research expertise of the University of California. The UCCE is a partnership between Federal, State and County government. Since 1918, UCCE has been providing practical answers to questions in agriculture, nutrition, natural resources and youth development in El Dorado County.

Agriculture

The Agriculture program promotes, practical, research-based solutions to assist local growers in the safe production and marketing of their crops.

- ◆ UCCE trained pest control advisors, farmers, ranchers and other pesticide applicators in the safe and effective use of pesticides, pest identification, pest management, and sprayer application technology. Trainings have increased grower knowledge of pest management and have resulted in production techniques that improve the sustainability of the farm as well as protect the regions natural resources.
- ◆ Farm Advisor, Lynn Wunderlich received \$218,000 grant from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to train California's pesticide applicators to reduce drift near schools.

Nutrition

South Lake Tahoe is home to Bijou Community School where the Two-Way Bilingual Immersion program thrives. To support this program, UC CalFresh Nutrition Educators provided lessons in Spanish for students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade. Extenders at this site were trained to deliver lessons from the curriculum, Eating Healthy from Farm to Fork.



Following the success of the two yearlong growing domes at Sierra House Elementary, UC CalFresh Nutrition Educators will be involved in restoring the Bijou Community School Garden site. The goal for the garden is to make it a teachable space not only for students, but for community members as well.



Left: Extender, Jessica Keys, teaches a lesson to 1st graders.
Right: Educators, Cristina and Lupe shovel alongside Master Gardener, Rebecca Bryson, during a meeting to discuss plans for the Bijou Community Garden.



4-H Youth

The 4-H Youth Development program helps youth **discover** and **develop** their potential and grow into competent, contributing, and caring citizens. **Learn by doing** activities, youth-adult partnerships, and research-based educational programs help young people enhance their leadership abilities and develop a wide range of life skills.



- ◆ New in 2018 - UCCE brings 4-H programming to South Lake Tahoe!
- ◆ This year 4-H established a new partnership with Mount Tallac Continuation High School and Sierra House Elementary School. At Mount Tallac Continuation High School 4-H is offering an in-school S.T.E.M. Robotics class once a week. At Sierra House Elementary School, 4-H is offering a five week after-school spa and mindfulness class.
- ◆ This summer plans continue with a partnership between CalFresh, the Boys and Girls, and 4-H to deliver various summer class at the Boys and Girls Club.
- ◆ 4-H offers youth (age 9-17) a week long summer camp at Camp Concord. 4-H camp helps young people to reach their full potential as competent and confident leaders who contribute and are connected to their communities. Campers get experience in a variety of activities including canoeing, hiking, sports, stargazing, talent shows, music, science, technology, and much more!



2017 4-H Camp at Camp Concord

The UCCE Central Sierra Team consists of 29 staff. Staff housed in South Lake Tahoe include:

- Susie Kocher - Forestry / Natural Resources Advisor
- Megan Suarez Brand - Master Gardener Coordinator
- Hector Ochoa - CalFresh Program Manager
- Christina Luquin—CalFresh Nutrition Educator
- Lupe Ramirez - CalFresh Nutrition Educator

Directory can be accessed at http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/About_Us/Staff



Natural Resources

The Natural Resources program provides research and education in areas specific to sustainable natural resource management, invasive species management, and water quality.

- ◆ Received a \$10,000 grant to develop and extend a train-the-trainer program for tree mortality throughout the Sierra. Trained over 200 Master Gardeners on tree mortality basics (mortality causes and trends, bark beetles, forest succession) tree removal and site preparation, seedling selection and seed zone. As a direct result of the program, volunteers can now better answer questions from the public about tree mortality.
- ◆ UCCE Advisors and Specialists have assisted local ranchers with water quality concerns and grazing livestock on the El Dorado National Forest.
- ◆ Hosted reforestation workshops in partnership with CalFire focusing on replanting issues after tree mortality for private landowners.
- ◆ Hosted Angora Fire 10 Year Anniversary Science Symposium to highlight post fire forest management and research findings.
- ◆ Offered educational workshops on weed identification and control.



UC Master Gardeners learn from experts about replanting conifer forests

Master Gardener

The UC Master Gardener Program is a public service and outreach program where local residents are trained and serve as volunteers to extend UC research-based information about home horticulture and pest management to the public.



- ◆ This year, we held our 4th training. 21 additional volunteers graduated from a 10-month training (once a month) course bringing the total number of volunteers to 65. Throughout the year, volunteers work with local elementary schools teaching science-based garden curriculum, writing articles for local newspapers, answering questions at local nurseries and farmers markets.
- ◆ Growing Food in Tahoe Program (Phenology Study). In 2017 we held 16 workshops in all 5 of Lake Tahoe Counties while partnering with UC Davis, UNR, and Guelph University to study which vegetable varieties grow best at high elevation. Our workshops were so successful that we are holding 22 workshops in 2018. We have over 500 Tahoe participants who provide us data on vegetable variety plant growth from around the Lake Tahoe Basin.
- ◆ Started a Tahoe Friendly Garden Program. We host classes at the South Lake Tahoe-- El Dorado County Branch Library and are working to create a demonstration garden on-site, and a voluntary-based home garden certification that acknowledges residents commitment to protect Lake Tahoe's natural resources.

Funding

The UCCE Central Sierra is funded between a partnership between Federal, State and County government.

The cornerstone of the partnership is local county support. UCCE Central Sierra consists of a collaboration between El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties.

2017/18 Highlights

- ◆ Grants - **\$1,153,048**
- ◆ Federal & State Funding - **\$1,631,063**
- ◆ County Partners - **\$795,647**
- ◆ Volunteers raised **\$228,154** to support local programs!
- ◆ 4-H, Master Gardener, and Master Food Preserver volunteers donated 56,939 hours this year serving the local community in extending research based information. For a total value of **\$1,374,507**

