



## **Want to Become A Master Food Preserver?**

by Betty Hess-Pierce

UCCE Master Food Preserver of El Dorado County

The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) invites adults interested in helping others learn about safe home food preservation to apply to train as a Master Preserver (MFP) volunteer. UCCE Master Food Preserver volunteers learn University-based, scientific information and then share that knowledge with our community in El Dorado County through free public classes, newsletters, Farm Day, farmer markets, Kid's Expo, the County Fair, and other events.

Training classes are scheduled to begin on March 1, with classes being offered on either Saturday or Tuesday. Classes will continue consecutively for 12 weeks with graduation being May 17<sup>th</sup>. Classes consist of approximately 1 hour of lecture and 3-4 hours of hands-on preserving experience.

The cost of the training is \$85; payment is due before classes begin. Once training is completed, the new volunteers will be certified Master Food Preservers and agents of the UCCE. Our mission is to teach our local communities how to safely preserve food at home. As agents of the UCCE, MFPs are required to volunteer at least 35 hours annually in our community; therefore highest priority for applicants is given to residents of El Dorado County. Residents from neighboring counties who are willing volunteer in El Dorado County may also apply.

Complete the online application at <http://ucan.org/edmf>. Interviews will be conducted on Saturday, February 22. The main criteria for acceptance is prior community service; experience teaching, either by giving presentations, writing, or in one-on-one situations; and experience with home preservation.

For more information, contact Robin Cleveland at 530-621-5528 or [rkleveland@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rkleveland@ucdavis.edu).