



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Cooperative Extension

Central Sierra

March 2024

Amador County | Calaveras County | El Dorado County | Tuolumne County

Greetings, Lindsey!

This past weekend's blizzard was textbook March weather "roaring in like a lion"! Check out this month's newsletter to see which events were rescheduled, and what other activities are happening soon in the Central Sierra. We have Master Gardener and Master Food Preserver classes just in time for spring planting and county fairs, as well as forest stewardship and natural resource management programs to help you get back on track after the winter storms. Plus, take a look at our 2022-2023 Annual Report Snapshot for each county; we look forward to reaching even more members of our communities in the months to come. Now, let's hope the Farmers' Almanac holds true and our March ends with nice, calm weather.



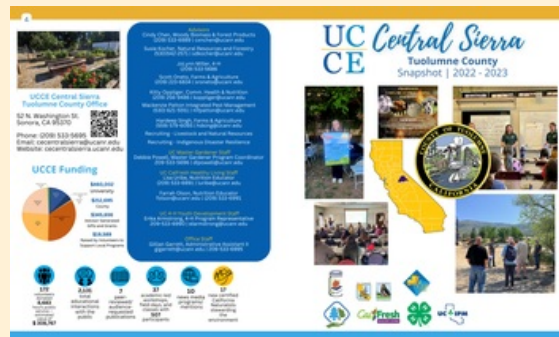
Amador County Snapshot



Calaveras County Snapshot



El Dorado County Snapshot



Tuolumne County Snapshot



Central Sierra UCCE Master Gardeners of Central Sierra



Pruning Your Grapes

Grape plants are the next thing to weeds; you have to be intentional to kill them. My first contact with a “disease” some farmers call “tractor blight” came as I was trying to learn how to hold a straight line as I disced. I took a couple of two-year-old vines off at ground level. Distraught, I sought the advice of another farmer who laughed and told me to wait. Within a week or two...

[Read More](#)



Pruning Roses for Spring and Summer Beauty

Rose pruning contributes to the health (leaves the strongest canes on the plant), productivity (promotes flower size and quality), and longevity (stimulates new growth) of rose plants. Pruning gives the plant an attractive shape and desirable size. Prune just when buds begin to swell and after the danger of frost is past. Anytime from now until early spring is...

[Read More](#)

Tuolumne County Polystyrene Collection Day

March 23 | 9:00AM – 4:00PM

Waste Management Inc.
Microtronics Way, Sonora

As in prior collections, we are accepting CLEAN, colored FOOD CONTAINERS. They MUST be washed! We are also accepting Packing grade polystyrene (used for shipping items such as electronics.) [Event Details](#)

What is IPM?

March 9 | 9:00AM - 12:00PM

UCCE Office - El Dorado County
311 Fair Lane, Placerville

Want to solve your pest problems in the garden using methods that lessen risks to people and the environment? Are you interested in less toxic pest management? Then this class is for you! Join Master Gardeners Sue McDavid and Pat Trimble for a presentation on Integrated Pest Management (IPM), an ecosystem-based approach to solving garden pest problems using a combination of techniques. IPM is based on scientific research and focuses on long-term prevention. Class size is

Watch a Rose Pruning Demonstration on the Central Sierra YouTube channel!

[Rose Pruning Demo](#)

Master Gardeners of Calaveras County

SEED & SCION EXCHANGE

Thursday 7 March 11.30am – 3pm
FRUIT TREE GRAFTING DEMO AT NOON
&
Saturday 9 March 10 – noon
PLANT SALE 10 TO NOON

FREE SEEDS TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY
GROW AND THRIVE!

Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden
891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas

Questions? 209-754-2880

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limited. [Register Here](#)

Integrated Pest Management for Home & Garden

Get customized monthly emails about how to use IPM in your garden. Subscribe, and enter the region in which you live!

[IPM for your Region](#)

March Gardening Tips

March is the time to prune your grapes and roses, divide and replant your herbs, and plant radish, lettuce, chard, and snap beans from seed! For more details about March garden maintenance and planting in the Central Sierra, visit us online:

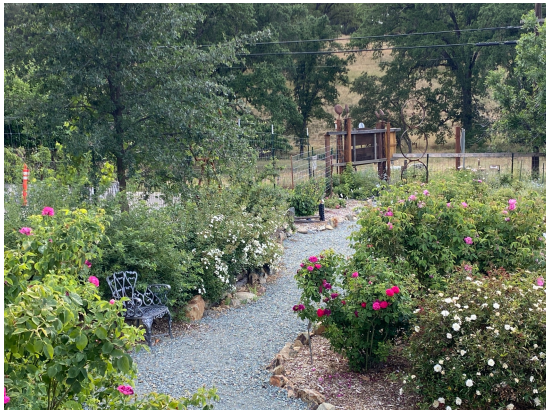
[Gardening Tips](#)

Culinary Herbs: From Garden to Gourmet

March 23 | 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Blackstone Community Center
1461 Blackstone Pkwy, El Dorado Hills

No fat, low fat, no salt, watch the sugar; we're constantly bombarded about how to eat healthier. One of the best ways to introduce healthy, delicious flavor into meals is to use herbs in our cooking. Many are easy to grow and preserve. They also make beautiful landscape plants and many of their flowers are edible. Join Master Gardeners Jan Keahey and Ada Brehmer to explore the herbs that grow well in our area, how to propagate and grow, when to harvest and how to preserve. And you will be able to propagate herbs to take home with you.



Back to Basics

March 13 | 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Cameron Park Community Center
2502 Country Club Drive, Cameron Park

Are you brand new to gardening, but have a burning desire to learn proper practices? Have you had some gardening experience, but not much success achieving healthy plants? Plan to attend MG Sheri Burke's free public education class on "Back to Basics." This presentation will cover topics such as soil types, watering techniques, planting methods, sun/shade exposure, mulch, proper tools to use and much more. It will also address what NOT to do when gardening. This is a terrific class for beginners, novices or anyone who just wants to learn more.

Summer Garden + Soil

March 23 | 9:00AM - 12:00PM

UCCE Office - Amador County
12200-B Airport Road, Jackson

Now is the time to plan your vegetable garden for the year. All the catalogs are coming and there are so many possibilities. Come learn ideas to help you have a wonderful garden this year. This class will discuss:

- Building and maintaining healthy soil in your garden, preparation before planting, and soil care after planting.
- Planting considerations—observing micro-climates, choosing what to grow, and timing.
- Seeding and/or transplanting.
- Planning your irrigation and ways to protect your plants from both cold and heat.
- Don't forget flowers for the pollinators.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources | UC Master Gardener Program

Cultivating History and Community with The Heritage Rose Garden of Jackson, California

Cultivating History and Community with the Heritage Rose Garden of Jackson, California Nestled in the heart of Amador County lies the Heritage Rose Garden, where the beauty of old roses meets the spirit of community. Here, UC Master Gardener...

[Read More](#)

UCCE Central Sierra Welcomes New Integrated Pest Management Advisor



MacKenzie Patton was raised in the Dallas, Texas suburbs. She received her bachelor's in biology at the University of Texas in Tyler, Texas. During her time at UT Tyler, she was exposed to the world of plant and insect research, which had a profound effect on the direction of her professional career. She also became a Master Gardener of Smith County in Texas, while finishing up her degree.

MacKenzie moved to California for graduate school at UC Davis in Plant Pathology. She studied plant viruses in solanaceous crops for her Master's work. Following graduation, she worked in the Viticulture and Enology department at Davis before moving to Orange County California.

While living in Southern California, she worked for a private company as a plant pathologist working with a wide array of plants and clients, from agricultural companies to ornamental and backyard gardeners. Here, she found her love for outreach and extension, which motivated her to join UC ANR as a community educator. MacKenzie worked for the UC ANR statewide Integrated Pest Management program focusing on outreach and education of invasive species.

As of December 4, 2023, she is the new IPM Area Advisor for the Central Sierra Counties. She is very excited to work with the diverse audiences and needs of the residents of the foothills. In her free time, MacKenzie likes to go hiking with her husband and dog, cuddle up with her cats and a book, or hit the kickboxing gym.

MacKenzie can be reached via phone (530-621-5505), cell (530-304-6397), email (mfpatt@ucanr.edu), or at her professional Instagram [@ipm_gal](https://www.instagram.com/ipm_gal) (www.instagram.com/ipm_gal)



Dan Macon to Join UCCE Central Sierra



Dan Macon, who currently serves as the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor for Placer, Nevada, Sutter, and Yuba Counties, will be changing his work location and joining UCCE Central Sierra in the same capacity in October 2024. He will replace Dr. Flavie Audoin, who recently left Central Sierra to join the University of Arizona as Assistant Specialist in Plant-Herbivore Interactions and Targeted Grazing.

Macon, who is originally from Tuolumne County, has been a UCCE advisor since 2017. "I'm thrilled to be returning to the part of the foothills where I grew up, and where I still have family," says Macon, adding, "Dr. Audoin leaves big shoes to fill – I'm anxious to go to work on the critical economic and environmental issues facing ranchers and rangeland managers throughout the Central Sierra region."

A graduate of Sonora High School, Macon received a bachelor of science degree in agricultural and managerial economics from UC Davis and a master's degree in integrated

resource management from Colorado State University. He is a past president of the California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management and the California Wool Growers Association, and currently serves on the Production Education and Research Committee of the American Sheep Industry Association and on the board of directors of the Tahoe Cattlemen's Association.

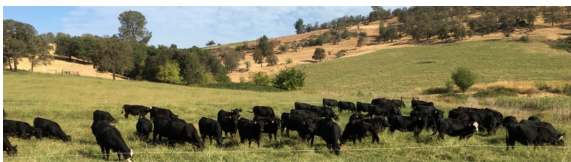
In his current capacity, Macon has focused his research and extension programs on livestock-predator interactions, drought management and disaster resilience, targeted grazing systems, rangeland prescribed fire, and economic sustainability. "While many of these issues are relevant to ranchers and land managers throughout the Sierra region, I look forward to working with the ranching community in Central Sierra to better understand their specific priorities and needs," says Macon.

Macon and his family have lived in Placer County since 1994. In 2005, they established Flying Mule Sheep Company, a commercial sheep enterprise focused on lamb production and community-focused fuels management services. Prior to joining UCCE, Macon worked for the California Cattlemen's Association and served as the founding executive director of the California Rangeland Trust. He also worked as the beef herdsman at the University of California Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center in Browns Valley, CA, and as an assistant specialist in the UC Rangelands Laboratory at UC Davis. Macon has two daughters; Lara (26), who works as a rangeland technician at the Jornada Experimental Range in New Mexico, and Emma (20), a junior in rangeland science and management at the University of Idaho.



Macon, who will relocate to the Central Sierra region, will begin his new position on October 1, 2024. UCCE will be filling his current Placer-Nevada-Sutter-Yuba position during the summer of 2024. Macon can be contacted at dmacon@ucanr.edu.

Central Sierra Healthy Soils Program



CALLING FARMERS AND RANCHERS!

The Central Sierra Healthy Soils Program is offering technical assistance and has \$3.4 million available for farmers and ranchers in 8 counties: Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Alpine.



Learn More +
Submit an Interest Form: www.centralsierrahsp.com

Or contact Anna Mariscal at (209) 217-1051



The Central Sierra Healthy Soils Program is pleased to share that we have received \$4M in funding from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Healthy Soils Program Block Grant in partnership with Resource Conservation Districts in seven counties in the Central Sierra. This funding is dedicated to providing free technical assistance and distributing \$3.4 million in direct-to-farmer grants to improve soil health for farmers and ranchers in Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Alpine counties. This project is administered in collaboration with the Placer Resource Conservation District, Amador Resource Conservation District, and El Dorado & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts.

This funding will ensure that at least one project is awarded in each of these eight counties. Additionally, at least 25% of the

budget is allocated to producers who identify as Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (SDFRs), for which multilanguage assistance and services will be provided when necessary. After these requirements have been fulfilled, the remaining project funding and support will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Agricultural producers operating in the counties mentioned above who are interested in

receiving free technical assistance, working to improve soil health, and implementing conservation practices on their farm or ranch can fill out an interest form at the following link: [Central Sierra Healthy Soils Program](#)

Healthy Soils Interest Form



Harvest of the Month: Oranges

After chocolate and vanilla, orange is the world's favorite flavor! They are delicious and nutritious, especially when eaten whole (without the peel, of course!). A half cup of orange sections provides 80% of your daily Vitamin C, as well as fiber, B-vitamins, and folate.



There are many different types of oranges, from the Navel Orange, so called because of the little "belly button" on the end, to the Blood Orange which is a deep red on the inside, and even bitter green oranges like the Bergamot Orange, which we don't usually see in the store.

[Watch: All About Oranges](#)

Ready to give them a try? Here's a recipe from our friends on the other side of the United States...



Winter Salad with Citrus Vinaigrette



Q: Why do oranges do well on tests?
A: They know how to *concentrate*.

CalFresh Healthy Living UCCE- Tahoe

Educators have been working throughout the last couple of years with the school district, their relationship has grown. Tahoe finally has a Nutrition Corner at one of the schools they work with. Each month the educators will be providing tips and recipes as well as promoting Harvest of the Month.

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UCCE Central Sierra Tuolumne County Office Welcomes New Administrative Staff


Gillian Garrett was raised in rural California and moved back to Tuolumne County to explore an outdoor education in native ecology, natural resources, and environmental policy before completing her AA in English. While getting her degree and working as a student mentor, she developed a passion for connecting rural individuals with their communities, opportunities, and resources.

Before joining UCANR as an Administrative Assistant, she worked as a social media manager, legal receptionist, college transfer mentor, stage manager, and customer service representative. She

has been supporting local organizations, volunteering, and participating in community events for the past 15 years.

Gillian is a hobby photographer and spends her free time gardening, hiking, and quilting. She is excited to be joining the UCCE Central Sierra team!





**Save the Date for
CA TREE SCHOOL!**

Saturday, May 4, 2024 in Hopland, CA
Saturday, June 1, 2024 in Placerville, CA


Join UC ANR Forest Stewardship at a unique day-long educational event for forest landowners, families and anyone interested in Forestry and Natural Resources.

What to Expect

Attend up to four different educational sessions taught by California natural resource professionals. Session topics include:

- Forest Arts
- Forestry Tools
- Wildlife
- Your Home In the Woods
- Pruning and vegetation management
- Fire as a tool
- **And More!**

Expert speakers will engage audiences through art, lecture, skills development and more!



CA Tree School registration also includes access to our **Exhibitor Fair!** Meet representatives from local agencies, suppliers, and forestry organizations.

Registration for both event locations will open in February 2024.
Scholarship funding for registration fees are available.
No walk-in registrations will be available.

For questions contact:
Kim Ingram, kcingram@ucanr.edu or Katie Reidy, kreidy@ucanr.edu

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Forest Stewardship

Save the Date!

Register now for a California Forest Stewardship Workshop

Online beginning March 20, 2024 – May 15, 2024 and in-person Saturday, April 6th Fresno County*

*participation in the field day is not required to be eligible for the free site visit



Hosted by:
University of California Cooperative Extension

in collaboration with:
American Forest Foundation

CAL FIRE
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

California Fire Safe Council

Forest Landowners of California

USFS Region 5

Join the workshop to understand and protect your forests by developing a Forest Management Plan. Topics include:

- Forest management objectives and planning
- Forest health, insects and disease
- Forest and fire ecology, wildlife, watersheds
- Fuels reduction and forest resource marketing
- Mapping, inventory and silviculture
- Project development & permitting
- Getting professional help and cost-share opportunities

Participants will utilize online resources on their own time to complete learning modules and short activities. Zoom meetings with all participants and presenters will take place once a week on Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm. The in-person field day will cover silviculture, forest inventory and mapping activities. Participants who complete the workshop will be **eligible for a free site visit** with a California Registered Professional Forester.

Registration for the workshop is \$60. Sign up now at:
<http://ucanr.edu/forestryworkshops/>

Scholarship funding for registration fee is available.
For questions, contact Kim Ingram, kcingram@ucanr.edu.





The Forest Stewardship Education Initiative is a CAL FIRE funded contract (8CA04547), awarded July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024, to Susie Koehler, RPI#2874, University of California Cooperative Extension, to help landowners develop forest management plans.





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Cooperative Extension

In collaboration with:
CAL FIRE
California Association of
Resource Conservation
Districts
California Fire Safe
Council
Forest Landowners of
California
USFS Region 5



**Register now for a California Forest
Stewardship Workshop:
Lake Tahoe Basin (El Dorado, Placer and
Nevada Counties)**

Online beginning May 14, 2024 – July 16, 2024, and
in-person Saturday, June 8th, El Dorado County

**Join the workshop to understand and protect your forests
by developing a Forest Management Plan. Topics include:**

- Forest management objectives and planning
- Forest health, insects and disease
- Forest and fire ecology, wildlife, watersheds
- Fuels reduction and forest resource marketing
- Mapping, inventory and silviculture
- Project development & permitting
- Getting professional help and cost-share opportunities

Participants will utilize online resources on their own time to complete learning modules and short activities. Zoom meetings with all participants and presenters will take place once a week on Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm. The in-person field day will cover silviculture, forest inventory and mapping activities. Participants who complete the workshop will be **eligible for a free site visit** with a California Registered Professional Forester.

Registration for the workshop is \$60. Sign up now at:

<http://ucanr.edu/forestryworkshops/>

Scholarship funding for registration fee is available.
For questions, contact Kim Ingram, kcingram@ucanr.edu.



The Forest Stewardship Education Initiative is a CAL FIRE funded contract (8CA04547), awarded July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024, to Susie Kocher, RFR#2874, University of California Cooperative Extension, to help landowners develop forest management plans.



**Register now for free prescribed fire
practitioner training
Firefighter Type 2 Wildland Firefighter Course
Thursday May 16th to Friday May 17th in Placerville, El
Dorado County**

Course Structure: This is a blended course with online coursework required and two days of skills training and testing.

Training Topics: Gain essential skills and knowledge required for effective wildland firefighting as well as prescribed burning.

- Safety Protocols: Learn the importance of safety in wildfire environments and understand personal protective equipment.
- Field Exercises: Participate in hands-on training exercises to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world scenarios.
- Tools and Equipment: Identify and use basic firefighting tools and equipment, including hoses, pumps, and hand tools.
- Certification: Successful completion of the course may open doors to opportunities in wildland firefighting and prescribed fire.

Who should attend: El Dorado and Amador county residents and others interested in:

- Pursuing a career in wildland firefighting.
- Enhancing knowledge of wildfire prevention / suppression.
- Community members passionate about contributing to safety and preservation of forests through use of prescribed fire.

Registration: Please register at www.healthyforestalliance.org. Early registration is encouraged, as space is limited. You will be required to become an associate member of the Healthy Forest Alliance to register (at no cost). There is no cost for the training.

For more information: For inquiries or additional information, please contact us at training@healthyforestalliance.org or call 775-895-9143. Or contact Susie Kocher, skocher@ucanr.edu.



**Pressure Canning
March 16 | 9:00AM - 12:00PM**

UCCE Office - Amador County
12200-B Airport Road, Jackson

If the thought of using a pressure canner scares you, come learn how a pressure canner works and the multiple safety features included on every modern canner. Build your confidence in pressure canning by watching several mini-demonstrations and compare a variety of canner types. Learn when you need to use a pressure canner and why. Check-in begins at 8:45 am; class starts promptly at 9:00. There is a \$5 fee (payable at the door by cash/check payable to UC Regents) Pre-registration recommended. [Register Here](#)



Are you looking for something new to preserve? How about some Onion Soup? Or Cinnamon Kumquats? Oranges in Cointreau? Lemon Bar Ice-Cream Sandwiches? Visit our Archived Recipes page to find your new favorites.

[Recipes](#)

**Host a Food Preservation
Event!**

The purpose of the University of California Cooperative Extension Master Food Preserver program is to provide up-to-date information on food safety and home food preservation. A Master Food Preserver is a volunteer who is formally educated in food preservation/food safety and is certified by the University of California Cooperative Extension. Volunteers are qualified to teach food preservation/food safety in addition to disseminating that information via lectures, talks and other county events. Would you like to request a speaker at your event? Reach out to the

Many food preservation classes are free and offered online with UCCE Master Food Preservers from all over California. Check out the class and events calendar to see what's happening online or near you!

Class Calendar

Free Pressure Gauge Testing

UCCE Master Food Preservers of El Dorado, Amador and Tuolumne counties have devices to test Presto Brand pressure canner gauges and offer **free pressure gauge testing at our offices.**

Call the office nearest you to set up a drop-off of your canner and you will receive a phone call when it has been tested and is ready for pickup. Usually testing can be done within a week.

[Read More](#)

Master Food Preservers of Central Sierra today to start planning!

Speaker Request



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■ UC Master Food Preserver Program



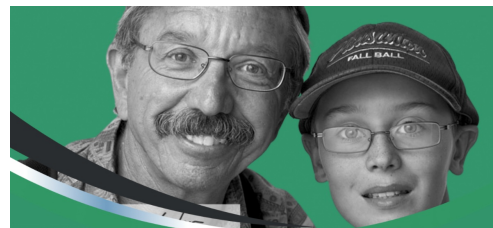
FREE! Online Workshop Series for 4-H Project Leaders - Spring 2024

There was such a great response to this workshop series in the fall that the State 4-H Office is offering it again in the spring!

Learn about your role, responsibilities, lesson planning, making learning engaging, working with youth of all ages, and effective hands-on learning.

Tuesdays | March 5, 12, 19, & 26 | 6:30-8:30PM

The complete series consists of four 2-hour sessions. Please plan to participate in all 4 sessions for the best learning experience, and to receive a personalized name badge.



Spring 2024 Online Workshop Series for 4-H Project Leaders

Learn about your role, responsibilities, lesson planning, making learning engaging, working with youth of all ages, and effective hands-on learning.

The complete series is 4, 2-hour sessions offered Tuesdays, March 5, 12, 19, & 26 | 6:30-8:30pm



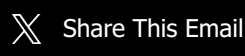
Register at <https://bit.ly/4HPL2>
Complete the series to earn a 4-H name badge.



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Register Now



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530-621-5502 | 888-764-9669 | cecentralsierra@ucdavis.edu | cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu



Accessibility: Should you need assistance or require special accommodations for any of our educational programs, please contact us at 530-621-5502.

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