

August 2019

UC Cooperative Extension
Central Sierra News

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

PRACTICAL • CONNECTED • TRUSTED

Serving Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado & Tuolumne counties

Your monthly news & event announcements

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Greetings from your local UC Cooperative Extension,

Over the past year I had the opportunity to take a yearlong sabbatical. What is a sabbatical you ask? It is a period of time granted to an academic or other worker for study or travel. Last July, it seemed like the perfect time to take a sabbatical to focus on a number of projects that I had wanted to work on but could never find the time. Much of the year, I spent quietly writing and it is amazing how productive you can be when you don't have to answer phone calls, respond to emails and deal with the day-to-day distractions of every day work. To give you a glimpse of some of the projects I worked, check out my article in the newsletter.

During my sabbatical, I was very fortunate to have my colleague JoLynn Miller serve as Interim Director. Most of you know JoLynn as our local Youth Development Advisor for the four-county region. During this time, she did a phenomenal job handling all the administrative duties of the Director.

Over the course of my sabbatical we discussed the future leadership of our unit and I decided this was a great time to give another Advisor the opportunity to take on this leadership role. I have had the wonderful privilege of serving as the Director since 2006 and it has been a rewarding part of my advisor career. However, as the Director my time to conduct research and extension activities is limited. The opportunity to switch Directors will give me the time to focus more on doing those types of activities while at the same time giving me a chance to mentor a new leader in our organization. After an internal search, JoLynn was chosen as our next Director. Her charismatic leadership and effective problem solving skills will be a great match for taking us into the next decade.

Please help me welcome JoLynn as our new Director!

Scott Oneto, UCCE Farm Advisor

Visit our Website



Local Position Vacancy

Area CE Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor

Serving Calaveras, Tuolumne, Amador and El Dorado counties

This position is headquartered in Sonora, Tuolumne County, California.

POSITION PURPOSE: The Area Cooperative Extension (CE) advisor for livestock and natural resources will conduct a multi-county based extension, education and applied research program that will focus on livestock production systems including grazing management, pasture management, nutrition, herd health, animal husbandry, genetic selection, reproduction, and marketing. This position will have a strong animal husbandry focus and will contribute to a more complete and balanced team throughout the region. The natural resource component of this position will focus on developing effective solutions to issues relating to commercial livestock production systems and natural resource issues such as water quality, rangeland health, wildlife habitat, and public lands management.

For more information and application process see the [Area CE Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor details](#).

Additional UCCE Employment Opportunities Coming Soon!

- UCCE CalFresh Healthy Living Nutrition Educator in our South Lake Tahoe office
- UCCE CalFresh Healthy Living Program Manager for the Central Sierra Region (may be based in any of our 5 offices – South Lake Tahoe, Placerville, Sutter Creek, San Andreas, or Sonora).

Visit the [UCCE website](#) to view [current open positions](#).

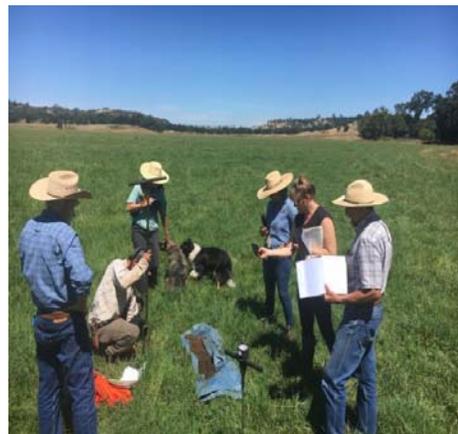
More information and details will be available as positions are officially posted.

My Year in Review

Author: Scott Oneto, UCCE Farm Advisor

One of the most common questions I would get from family, friends and clientele over the past year was, “what is a sabbatical?” And more importantly, “so you are telling me they are paying you not to go into the office every day?” My typical response would start by explaining what a sabbatical is and what they are intended to be used for. I would then talk about some of the projects that I was expected to accomplish during my leave and how a sabbatical is a great way to be productive by getting rid of the daily distractions of every day work life.

Although many of my colleagues will often travel as part of a sabbatical, my main focus was to stay put and write. Over the past few years I could never find the time to write. Between the emails, phone calls, walk-ins, farm visits, and the administrative task of being the Director, writing always took a back seat. Especially the bigger projects. Often I



could squeeze time to write a blog or newspaper article, but the larger writing projects like publications, journal articles and books were never an option.

One project that has been sitting on my desk for nearly a decade was to write a new [field guide for weeds](#) in the region. The last one we produced was about 20 years ago and has been out of print for several years. Many ranchers, landowners, agency personnel and land managers want tools for helping identify weeds and although technology through the use of smart devices has made this easier, many of us still like a field guide that we can carry around or put in a vehicle.

Although it started out with just weeds, I ended up including some desirable forages and some California natives. In all there are 80 plants featured with a description of each plant, information on reproduction and control strategies. With amazing financial support from local organizations and agencies I received enough funding to print 5,000 copies so we can give these out for free! You can pick up a copy at our office or visit one of the county agricultural departments. The book is also available on our [website](#) as an [E-book](#) and can be viewed on a computer or mobile device. If you find the book useful, please send an [email](#) so I can forward your comments on to those that funded the project.

I also took this time to revise several of our university pest notes...

[Continue reading on the ANR articles page...](#)

Precision Agriculture: 21st Century Sustainability

[Author: Lynn Wunderlich, UCCE Farm Advisor](#)

Hi Fodder Folks!

"Precision Agriculture" is a term you've probably heard. You may think of farm mechanization, remote sensing, computers, and maybe even drones when you hear it, and you'd be correct in all of those associations. But does the term "sustainability" come to mind in relation to "precision agriculture"? Precision agriculture seeks to identify in-field variability (and in the foothills, there is ALOT of variability in the soils and topography), and then address that variability in the most efficient way, often using new technology, to ensure a uniform crop and the conservative use of resources resulting in a profitable agricultural enterprise. Resource conservation, Efficiency, Profitability...sounds like components of sustainable agriculture to me!



Agriculture today faces a huge challenge in labor shortages. Only recently have foothill growers been looking at investing in mechanical tools to help them get the work done. Last month I held a field day in collaboration with Patrick Tokar, viticulturalist for Rombauer, the same Napa Valley Rombauer that recently acquired the old Renwood winery and tasting room in Amador county. (I have a friend who only drinks Rombauer chardonnay-a classic buttery chard that's been called a California icon-but what a pity she's missing out on so many other delicious foothill whites! Vermentino, Sauvignon blanc, Rousanne, Viognier, Greco...oh my goodness, another story on that later surely!)

[Continue reading on the UCANR blogs page...](#)

Plant spacing and maintenance are critical in the defensible landscape

Author: Jeannette E. Warnert, UCANR Communications Specialist

All vegetation can burn, but some plant species may pose less risk than others in a wildfire-prone community, reported Noah Bemer in the Calaveras Enterprise.

In the first five feet around buildings, stone walls, rocks, patios and gravel mulch can enhance fire safety. In areas that are landscaped, high-moisture plants that grow low to the ground and contain little sap or resin also decrease fire risk.

Susan Kocher, UC Cooperative Extension natural resources advisor in the Central Sierra, said home fire safety “usually means taking away vegetation, rather than adding it. A more safe landscape would be more sparse.”...

[Continue reading on the UCANR News & Events page...](#)



Blue Oak Mortality: An Emerging Problem?

Author: Dan Macon, UCCE Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor

In the space of several days in early June, I received phone calls from two foothill cattle producers about an unusual number of dead and dying blue oaks on their annual rangelands. The first rancher's observations were limited to his home place; the second rancher was noticing the blue oaks dying on leased grazing land from Auburn to Nevada City. In mid-June, I visited one of these operations and noted several things:

1. Some of the trees that the rancher said had leafed out normally in spring appeared to be entirely dead and devoid of leaves.
2. Several trees appeared to be dying from the top down or on individual branches. Many of the leaves on these trees also appeared to be scorched.
3. These trees did not appear to have any lesions on their trunks - no wounds or noticeable fungal growth.

Several weeks later, I published my summer newsletter and included a short blurb asking readers to contact me if they were noticing anything unusual in their blue oaks. Within an hour of sending the newsletter electronically, I had emails from several landowners noting similar conditions. The issue, it seems, is more widespread than just a couple of random trees....

[Continue reading on the UCANR blogs page...](#)



California's bad romance with Bromus fuels wildfire

Author: Pamela Kan-Rice, UCANR Assistant Director, News & Information Outreach

When wildfires burn in California, people often call them forest fires or brushfires, but the odds are high that an invasive weed is an unrecognized fuels component, says a UC Agriculture and Natural Resources scientist.

“We have all of the nasty non-native Bromus species here in California, and these weeds are key drivers of increasing fire frequency,” said Travis Bean, UC Cooperative Extension weed science specialist based at UC Riverside.

The invasive, non-native Bromus species aggressively outcompete native plants, forming dense stands that grow fast and dry out quickly, becoming highly flammable. Fire can move rapidly through these...



[Continue reading on the UCANR blogs page...](#)

Irrigation volume and frequency: soil, salinity and nutrient considerations

Author: Mark Battany, UCCE Water Management & Biometeorology Advisor



Irrigation frequency and volume

One fundamental decision that a grower needs to make is how frequently to irrigate a vineyard; either applying small amounts of water frequently, or larger amounts of water less frequently. This choice determines how large the soil "flower pot" is that supports the vines, while also having implications for nutrient availability, salinity conditions and potential limitations on water infiltration. Changing from frequent small irrigations to infrequent large irrigations, either as an ongoing practice or as a one-time event, may lead to unanticipated outcomes and thus should ideally be done after ensuring that the conditions are adequate for this practice. For this reason it can be beneficial to evaluate the soil and water quality conditions at a site before making large changes in irrigation

practices. Factors to consider include the potential depth of the rootzone, the presence of any layers in the soil which may cause infiltration problems, the salinity of the irrigation water, and the potential nutrient conditions affected by changing the wetted soil volume.

Root zone depth

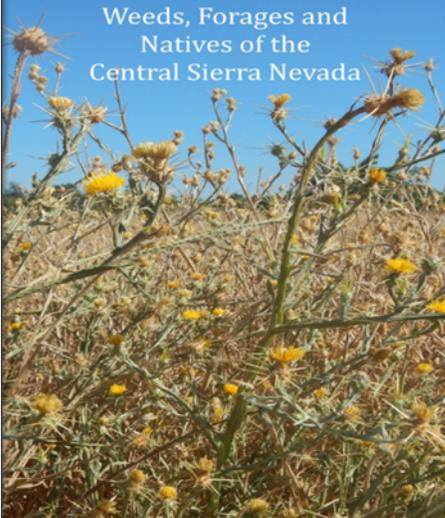
If applying a large volume of irrigation water, the soil needs to have the capacity to store this water while providing adequate porosity conditions allowing gas exchange for proper root function. The soil depth to bedrock needs to be considered; if this depth is shallow in areas of the vineyard, this can lead to poor performance with large irrigations if they result in ponded water above the bedrock or large variations in total available soil water due to varying soil depths...

[Continue reading on the UCANR blogs page...](#)



FIELD GUIDE

Weeds, Forages and
Natives of the
Central Sierra Nevada



New Field Guide

Weeds, Forages, and Natives of the Central Sierra Nevada

Free copies are available now, at our UCCE County offices. Or Click image for eBook.

Amador Office

Monday - Thursday, 9am - 1pm: 209-223-6482

Calaveras Office

Monday - Friday, 8am - 4:30pm: 209-754-6477

El Dorado Office

Monday - Friday, 8am - 5pm: 530-621-5502

Tuolumne Office

Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm: 209-533-5695

[Listen to an interview with one of the guide's authors](#)

Recently, Debbie Powell, UCCE Master Gardener Program Representative, interviewed Scott Oneto, UCCE Farm Advisor and co-author of the new Field Guide: Weeds, Forages, and Natives of the Central Sierra on the local radio show "[Over the Garden Gate](#)."

This and other archived episodes of Over the Garden Gate can be found on the [UCCE Master Gardeners of Tuolumne County web page](#). You can also listen to the weekly broadcast on Saturday and Sunday morning at 9:30am, streaming online on [kaad-lp.org](#) or 103.5 FM in the Sonora area.

Classes & Event Dates

[FREE Small Flock Egg Producers Workshop](#)

[*RSVP by August 2nd*](#)

When: Tuesday August 6, 2019 10:00am – 3:00pm

Where: El Dorado County Ag Department, 311 Fair Lane,
Placerville, CA 95667

Who Can Attend: Anyone producing eggs or anyone interested in producing eggs that resides in El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Nevada, Placer or Sacramento counties.

What: Info for Egg Producers, Intro to Chickens, Biosecurity, Hands on Candling Exercise, Poultry Disease, Egg Quality

How: [Download the flyer](#) and [RSVP](#), or visit the [ANR Events & Workshops page](#) for more information.





[2019 Forest Stewardship Workshops!](#)

Understand and protect your Forest by creating a Forest Management Plan

WHY should I attend a Forest Stewardship Workshop?

- LEARN about forests and their management
- COLLECT information about your forest
- DEVELOP a forest management plan
- APPLY for state and federal cost share assistance
- CONNECT with other landowners and forestry practitioners

WHAT will I learn about?

- Forest management objectives and planning
- Forest restoration
- Project development & Permitting
- Cost-share opportunities

HOW will I learn these concepts?

- ATTEND a three-day workshop
- WRITE your own management plan
- REVIEW your plan with a Registered Professional Forester

Visit the [UCANR Forest Research and Outreach](#) page or [download the flyer](#) for more details.

Join the [workshop mailing list](#) to be notified as workshops are scheduled. **Cost** is \$50 per participant.

Questions? Contact Kevin Conway at (530) 339-0286 or Susan Kocker at sdkocher@ucanr.edu.

SAVE THE DATE!

Prescribed Fire on Private Lands Workshop

These one-day workshops are designed for landowners and managers looking to gain skills in prescribed fire planning and implementation.

Workshop topics: Permitting and legal considerations • Cal Fire's Vegetation Management Program • Fire weather forecasting and online tools • Air quality and smoke management • Prescribed burn associations • Local fire history • Fire terms and fire behavior • Burn plan development • Burn unit preparation • Tools and equipment

Two dates/locations (select one):

October 8th, 2019

Ambulance, Fire and EOC Facility
18440 Striker Court, Sonora, CA

October 10th, 2019

American Legion Ambulance
11350 American Legion Drive, Sutter Creek, CA

Registration will open in late August. A nominal fee is required.

Download the flyer or visit the UCANR Forest Research and Outreach page for more information

For questions, contact Susie Kocher, sdkocher@ucanr.edu (530) 542-2571.



UCCE 4-H Youth Development

UCCE 4-H Youth Development

Enrollment is open for the 201-20 program year.

[Join Now](#)

Volunteer Training

[New Adult Volunteer Orientation](#) - select a date that works for you.

Amador

Check their [Calendar & Events webpage](#).

Calaveras

Check their [Calendar & Events webpage](#).

El Dorado

Check their [Calendar & Events webpage](#).

Tuolumne

Check their [Calendar & Events webpage](#).



UCCE Master Food Preservers



University of California
Cooperative Extension

**Master
Food
Preserver**

Classes & Events Offered by UCCE Master Food Preservers

Amador/Calaveras

8-10: [Veggies Galore - Amador](#)

8-21: [Freezing & Dehydrating Basics - Amador](#)

El Dorado

8-3: [Condiments - Jewels of the Table](#)

8-8: [Love Apples](#)

8-24: [Zucchini](#)

Out of County Food Preservation Classes:

8-13: [Vegetables: Preserve & Serve - Lassen County](#)

You can also visit us this month at the county fairs:

8/7 - 8/11: Nevada County Fair - Mini Demonstrations

8/15 - 8/18: Modoc County Fair - Mini Demonstrations

8/30 - 9/2: Mariposa County Fair - Information Booth

9/5 - 9/8: Gold Country Fair/Auburn - Information Booth & Mini Demonstrations

UCCE Master Gardeners

Classes & Workshops Offered by UCCE Master Gardeners

Monthly Gardening Tips

Amador

8-3: [Cultivating Cool Weather Crops](#)

8-24: [Annual Tomato Tasting Event](#)

Calaveras

8-24: [Open Day in the Garden](#) (no plant sale this month)

Thursdays: [CalaverasGrown Farmers market and farm stand](#)

El Dorado

8-3: [Garden Tour & Solar Viewing](#)

8-10: [2nd Saturdays Open Garden Day](#)

8-14: [Culinary Herbs: From Garden to Gourmet](#)

8-17: [Fall & Winter Vegetables](#)

Lake Tahoe

Check their [Classes & Events webpage](#).



Tuolumne

8-3: [Open Garden Day](#)

Weekly Tables/Booths:

- **Columbia Farmory** - Wednesdays & Saturdays 11am - 3pm
- **Lowes Sonora** - Thursdays 9am - 1pm
- **Peaceful Valley Farmers Market** - Fridays 4pm - 6pm
- **Sonora Farmers Market** - Saturdays 7:30am - 11:30 am

CalFresh Healthy Living: Harvest of the Month



Tomatoes are one of summer's most delicious foods, and are at their peak when the weather is hot. Heirlooms, cherry tomatoes, and regular slicing tomatoes all offer a wealth of nutrients, including vitamin C and potassium. Red varieties contain the powerful antioxidant lycopene, which is more easily absorbed when the tomatoes have been cooked. Other than classic tomato [sauce](#), use fresh tomatoes in a filling [salad](#), fresh [salsa](#), or a tomato melt [sandwich](#). Learn more about tomatoes and view their nutrition facts at [Harvest of the Month](#).



Classes & Events Offered by [UC CalFresh](#)

Amador

Please check back for events.

Calaveras

Please check back for events.

El Dorado

Please check back for events.

Lake Tahoe

Please check back for events.

Tuolumne

Please check back for events.

[UC IPM and more...](#)

[Green Bulletin - Summer 2019](#)

[Plant problem diagnostic tool](#)

[Natural Enemies Gallery](#)

[Weed Identification and Photo Gallery](#)

[Seasonal IPM](#)

[Recent Updates at IPM](#)

[UCIPM Weather Models & Degree Days webpage](#)

Thank you for your continued interest in the UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra's news, workshops, and events.

Sincerely,

JoLynn Miller
University of California
Cooperative Extension
Central Sierra

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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