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Hello!

My name is [Cindy Chen](#) and I joined UC ANR in September 2022 as a Woody Biomass and Forest Products Advisor. I serve six counties in the Central Sierra region and I am currently based in Tuolumne County.

The Central Sierra is rich in forest resources but has been particularly vulnerable to the increasing frequency and severity of wildfires over the past two decades. These wildfires not only impact ecosystem health and public safety, but also hinder economic development. Although California recognizes the importance of forest fuel reduction and the role of forest products in building a sustainable future, a lot of work needs to be done to ensure technical and financial supports reach all stakeholders and communities.

As a UCCE advisor, I would like to support and work with Central Sierra communities to develop outreach programs and provide assistance with grant proposals, applied research, workforce development, and technology improvement.

I invite you to take a brief survey to help me better understand your perspectives on forest fuel reduction, climate change mitigation, and utilization of woody biomass and forest products. Your feedback will help me best serve you and ensure that future events accurately address your needs and include topics of interest.

Thank you for your time!

Best,  
Cindy Chen



**Cindy Chen**  
**Woody Biomass &  
Forest Products  
Advisor**

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University of California  
Cooperative Extension  
Central Sierra Nevada MCP

**[TAKE BIOMASS &  
WOOD PRODUCTS  
SURVEY HERE!](#)**



*Forests and woodlands in the Central Sierra Nevada are beautiful, extensive, diverse and owned by both public and private landowners. Active management is needed to reduce forest density and to help forests recover after wildfire. The goal of the Central Sierra forestry program is to empower landowners to overcome these challenges.*



## 'California is meant to burn': Experts teach landowners...

The prescribed burn begins on a California hill with a drip torch to light brush, needles and fallen branches, the flames spreading out on the forest floor far below the tree canopy.

[Read more](#)

[www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com)

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## "Top 10 Tools for Forest Landowners"

*from the UC ANR Forest Research and Outreach Blog, written by Grace Dean*

Part of being a forest landowner is deciding where and when to invest your time, money, and energy. To assist them, the UCCE Forest Research and Outreach team collaborated with four experienced landowners to highlight ten tools a first-time forest landowner can invest in.

Listed below, these ten tools expand past saws and rakes to include tools that educate landowners and support their management activities. We hope this compilation gives readers new to forest management a proper start.

### #1 Management Goals

Every tool a new forest landowner buys should help advance a management goal. Each of the four interviewees emphasized that understanding what you and your land need is the number-one priority to be investing time and effort into.

*"That's my management goal: a healthy forest with as much biology as I can support. Keeping the big trees, letting fire in every once in a while...and correcting the problems we've caused in the past. The species we have here now, it's mostly white fir. People took out the Douglas Fir, the Sugar Pine and you have to do enough thinning to replant those species, because they're not coming in that fast underneath the dense fir forest." -Brent, Nevada Co.*



### #2 Pruning and Cross-Cut Saws

When completing thinning or clearing projects, every forest landowner has their go-to saws. Cross-cut saws are used for cutting down trees, whereas pruning saws cut away dead or diseased branches. Don't forget to look outside of the box for your tools, as one landowner told us about her preference for Japanese tools.

*"My Japanese pruning saw... it cuts like butter! It can easily take down trees up to four inches in diameter. The Japanese-made tools, they're smoother and sharper." -Danica, Sonoma County*





### #3 McLeod

A McLeod was cited by each of the four landowners as a must-have tool in every forest landowner's tool kit. One side can be used as a hoe and the other side as a rake, making it useful for activities ranging from trail building to raking in brush for a pile burn.

*"For pitching stuff in and raking things out [of a pile burn], you're going to need a McLeod. And if you want to clear a brush pile, it's heavy. And it [the McLeod] works really well for that." -Brent, Nevada County*

### #4 Succession or Legacy Plan

Thinking about who will take care of your land after you is a key aspect of successful forest management. However, bequeathing land to a family member isn't the only option. You could also consider donating your land to a local tribe, or to group like the Nature Conservancy.

*"[Regarding legacy] On the forest that we manage, we have a conservation easement, so it can't be developed. But it doesn't stop it from being logged...How do you conserve? How do you decide? You can let an organization manage it, but it might be in their interest to thin [the forest]. I'll do what I can- I'll set it up for you [the next generation] and hope that there's a shift in the future and we'll learn to steward our resources." -Brent, Nevada County*

### #5 Weed Wrench

What to do when you encounter an unwanted plant?

When restoring native plants and clearing unwanted invasives, some species are more difficult to uproot than others. If your garden shears aren't cutting it, reach for a weed wrench like the one here.



*"I have a lot of bay laurel and there's a lot of saplings that come up and they re-sprout vigorously. You have to literally pull it out by the root...so I use a weed wrench, and that's been a really valuable tool for me. It's also good for Scotch Broom, anything that has a small diameter neck that you can clamp on to and leverage out." -Sacha, Humboldt County*

### #6 Newsletters

Sometimes reading about what other landowners are doing can help you find inspiration for management activities. The Forestland Steward newsletter, which covers general forest management news and events, would be a good place for a new landowner to begin. Additionally, subscribing to newsletters that cater to your region and management goals is a simple way to find applicable management recommendations.

*"I subscribe to a bunch of email newsletters, and those are constantly talking about...like, what upcoming events are going on? What are educational conferences going on? I'm constantly getting research articles, casual writings, webinars...For me, I'm personally interested in good fire, so I subscribe to a lot of resources that are focused on using fire as a land management tool." -Sacha, Humboldt County*

### #7 Record Keeping

Come tax season, you will thank yourself for investing time in keeping records of your management activities. If you find yourself receiving funding in the form of grants, conservation easements, or other programs, having a trusted tax advisor or accountant should be a consideration.

*"Treating your forestland as a business or investment is an important step forward in efficiently managing your forest and can lead to incentives and deductions that will legally reduce your tax burden."*

*-Larry Camp, Forest Landowner and Retired IRS Agent*



### #8 Land History

For many forest landowners, learning about indigenous history is not only fascinating, but a thoughtful reminder of the original caretakers of California forestland. Investigate your land- and delve into Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), which may inspire new projects.

*"When we're talking about land and access to land, I think it's always good to be thinking about tribal sovereignty, and what are actions we can do to support that. Historically, this [land] was an oak woodland...we're playing catch up over 150 years of fire suppression policies. I'm working towards oak woodland restoration, and part of that is that tie-in to responsibility to tribal access." -Sacha, Humboldt County*

### #9 Management Education Resources

Though we at UCCE have our own Forest Stewardship Workshop series, there are often informational webinars and videos offered through regional organizations. The California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force website has a list of educational resources for landowners, found [here](#).

"I'm big on education, and when you're participating in that educational group, they [program participants] might throw out a different name, or a different agency you can use. It's really about being involved and taking up the suggestions that people give you." -Laura, Nevada County

## #10 Community

Getting connected with organizations like your local Resource Conservation District (RCD), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), CAL FIRE, or UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) office can be a big help to new landowners. These organizations house experts such as Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) who can provide technical assistance and assist in applying for permits or drafting a management plan. Devote time looking into region-specific organizations such as the Foothill Conservancy and My Sierra Woods that service multiple counties. Peer networks are a plus as well. Community ties were continuously cited by the forest landowners we spoke to as being a valuable resource.

*"Try to figure out what organizations are around you that are doing stuff. Around here, there's the Mid-Klamath Watershed Council, and they'll have invasive plant removal days, and you can go and volunteer. Doing something like that, where you're hands-on and connecting with other people is what I'd suggest."* -Sacha, Humboldt County

*"My community...is definitely close knit, because it's tough! It's a lot of work. And, you know, if I'm renting a chipper and it's up at my property and someone else wants to use it, they can. It's very, very helpful to be close with your neighbors and learn from them."* -Laura, Nevada County



### Mass Ply in Timber Buckling Restrained Braces

Mass Ply in Timber Buckling Restrained Braces increase earthquake resilience and improve sustainability and a beautiful architectural element.

[Read more](#)  
[frereswood.com](http://frereswood.com)

### USDA Announces \$43 Million Investment to Advance...

The USDA today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is investing more than \$43 million to expand innovative uses of wood, including as a construction material in commercial buildings, as an energy source, and in manufacturing and...

[Read more](#)  
[www.fs.usda.gov](http://www.fs.usda.gov)



## Registration Now Open for the 2023 SAF Forest Tech Conference

The two-day conference, organized by the Society of American Foresters, will be held from August 2-3 in Baton Rouge, LA.

Discounted early-bird registration is available through June 30, 2023. Conference attendees will get the opportunities to learn

about the latest in technology and equipment advances in the forest sector. Sponsor and exhibitor registration is also available. [More Information](#)



FOREST TECH  
CONFERENCE

August 2-3, 2023  
Baton Rouge, LA



## Registration Now Open for the 2023 SAF National Convention

The Society of American Foresters will host its 2023 National Convention from October 25-28 in Sacramento, CA. This year's theme is "Forest: It's in Our DNA", featuring a series of field tours, workshops, scientific and technical sessions, and exhibits that showcase the latest technology and address today's challenges and opportunities in the forest sector. Early-

bird registration is open from now through August 31. More information about the SAF National Convention and registration is available on SAF's website. [More Information](#)

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Agriculture and Natural Resources



## Forest Stewardship

### California Forest Stewardship Workshop Tuesdays, July 18 - September 12 via ZOOM | 6:00-7:30PM & In-Person Field Day Saturday, August 5 (Solano County)\*

Calling all Central Sierra Forest Landowners! Join the next workshop series to understand and protect your oak woodlands and conifer 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** (\*participation in the field day is not required to be eligible for the free site visit). Cost is \$60 per person, contact [Kim Ingram](#) for more information. [Register Here](#)

## Central Sierra Agriculture & Livestock

*The Central Sierra foothill region produces a wide variety of agriculture commodities. The University of California brings research and outreach to area farms to assist with growing and cultural practices, pest and disease management, and more!*



### Let Us Know What You Grow!

We value the perspectives of both existing and prospective growers in the Central Sierra region. Your feedback will help guide the direction of research and education programs, benefiting the local community and environment. We sincerely appreciate your participation, as it will aid us in fostering a more comprehensive understanding and support system for farmers within our region.

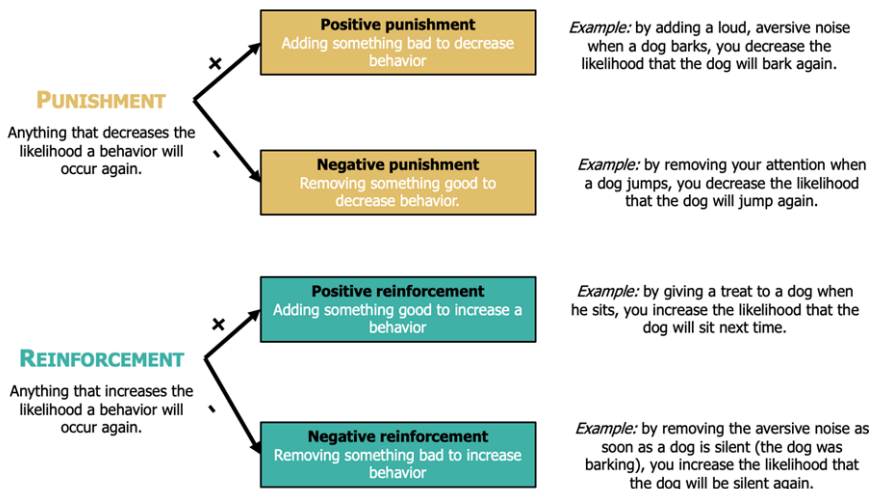
UCCE Central Sierra Farm Advisor Hardeep Singh has created a survey to gather information about your needs regarding niche and organic crop production, insect-pest management, resource sustainability, appropriate-scale equipment, technology, and marketing. We encourage all farmers who grow tree crops, vegetables, fruits, berries, and ornamentals to participate in the survey and contribute as foundational members of the local food system and community. The survey is voluntary, anonymous, and will take just a few minutes to complete. Please contact [Hardeep Singh](#) with any questions or concerns.

## Are You Interested in Virtual Fencing (VF)?

Virtual Fencing (VF) is an alternative to traditional physical fences which has the potential to enhance the efficiency of grazing management. Ranchers create virtual fence boundaries in a digital map software, like Google Maps, that communicate through radio towers with GPS collars worn by the livestock.



This technology trains animals through a combination of associative learning, a method where animals associate a certain response to a stimulus resulting in a positive or negative outcome, and operant conditioning, a method of learning that uses rewards and punishment to modify behavior (*Figure 1*). In the case of VF, an unpleasant stimulus, such as audible sounds or a mild electrical pulse, is utilized as positive reinforcement to discourage the behavior of crossing the virtual fence. Then, once the livestock respect the VF, the sound and the electrical pulse stop, which is the equivalent of negative reinforcement, and will have the impact to encourage them to stay away from the virtual boundaries. The result of this learning method is expressed as a modification to existing behaviors or the development of novel behaviors. This reflects the conscious or unconscious recognition of a contingency.



Animals learn about their foraging environment via two primary systems:

1. **Gut defense system which detects internal nausea (hours to days):** e.g. when an animal eats a plant, it will get a positive or negative digestive feedback which will cause a preference (if positive) or an aversion (if negative) for this same plant.
2. **Skin defense system which detects external pain (seconds to minutes):** e.g. when an animal touches a plant with thorns, it may feel pain and then will avoid this area.

VF systems train livestock through the skin defense system by using stimuli such as sounds and mild electric shocks to cause location avoidance. Overall, these livestock VF collars work in a similar way to GPS wireless fence collars that are used on dogs.

You may have read an article titled "[Virtual Fencing – How Collars on Cows Might Change Grazing on California Rangelands and Forestlands](#)" in our February UCCE Central Sierra Newsletter written by Scott Oneto and Brian Allen. In this article, they describe a targeted grazing trial they conducted on medusahead grass (*Elymus caput-medusae*) last year in Sutter Creek. We just started a new trial in that same pasture on May 23<sup>rd</sup> with 15 heifers (*photos below*). For more information contact [Flavie Audoin](#).





*Heifers with VF collars introduced to the research site.*



*Collared heifers after 1 month of grazing medusahead.*

### Virtual Fencing Workshop July 13, 2023 | 8:30AM - 4:30PM [Sutter Creek Auditorium](#)

Join us for a day full of information! Virtual Fencing (VF) is an emerging technology that contains livestock within user-defined boundaries with a reduced need for physical fences. Ranchers create and adjust virtual boundaries on a digital map, like Google Maps, that are detected by GPS collars worn by the livestock. The collars contain the livestock within the defined boundaries using sound followed by mild electric stimulus. This allows for the rapid implementation of new and improved forms of herd and range management for large and small ruminants.

This public workshop will focus on the practicality and effectiveness of VF by featuring ranchers currently using the technology, representatives from the two available VF companies in the United States ([Vence](#) and [Nofence](#)), and UC Cooperative Extension research projects aimed at exploring the potential applications of VF with cattle, goat, and sheep. Cost is \$15 per person. Contact [Brian Allen](#) for more information. [Register Here](#)

### Preliminary Results of the Livestock Producers Survey

To better serve the livestock producers of Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado and Tuolumne Counties, a survey was sent out at the end of May to collect some information. Thank you to those of you who completed it. If you have not, it's not too late to [submit your response](#)--it only takes a few minutes!

From the 28 livestock producers who responded to the survey so far, Calaveras had the highest rate of response with 39%, and Amador County had the lowest rate of response with 7% (*Figure 1*).

In the four counties, cattle are the main livestock production with 49%. Sheep and goat are the second livestock production with 20% (*Figure 2*).

From all of the answers received, January, February and March are the months that were preferred to have workshops. May, September and October seem to be the least convenient months to attend workshops (*Figure 3*). On weekends, Saturday and Sunday mornings were preferred for workshops (from 7 to 11:59 am); while during the week, the afternoon (12 to 4:30 pm) and evening (after 4:30 pm) were preferred from Monday through Thursday.

For the topics of workshops that livestock producers of the Central Sierra would like to attend, **Pasture & forage management** came in first with 22%, **Marketing** came in second with 15%, and **Health & parasite management** of your herd came in third with 14%. In the category called other, some producers mentioned that they would be interested in improving the quality of their forage, get some information on USDA processing facilities, collect information on carbon footprint of cattle operations in the Foothills, etc. (*Figure 4*).

These results are not necessarily representative of most of the livestock producers in the Central Sierra because we have a small number of responses. That is why, if you have not responded, please do it, to make this survey more valuable for all of the livestock producers of the Central Sierra. The survey will be available until July 28<sup>th</sup>. Contact [Flavie Audoin](#) for more information. Thank you for your help!

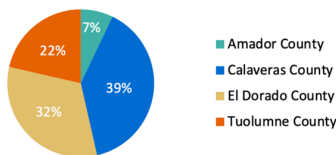


Figure 1: Percentage of livestock producers per County

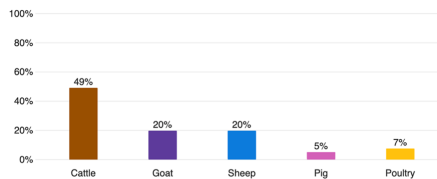


Figure 2: Percentage of each category of livestock raised in the Central Sierra

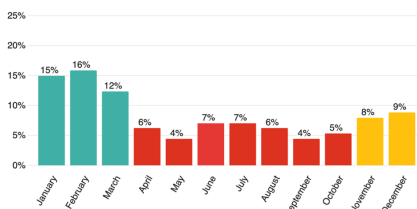


Figure 3: Months preferred to attend workshops [green = most preferred, red = least preferred]

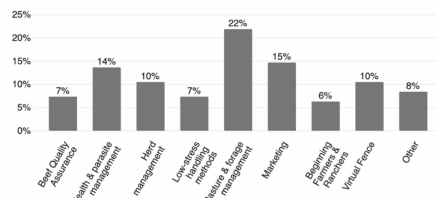


Figure 4: Preferred topics for workshops

[TAKE THE LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS SURVEY HERE!](#)



The 4-H Youth Development Program offers educational opportunities for children, teens, families, and adults. 4-H helps young people to reach their full potential as competent, confident, leaders of character who contribute and are connected to their communities.

## Summertime is a Time for Service

The summer of 2023 has kicked off with some awesome community events and opportunities for our 4-H members to lend a helping hand. Ione Community Club represented Central Sierra 4-H by serving dinner at the Future Hay Farmer's Annual Fundraising Bash and several clubs, including Blue Ribbon, Jackson Gold Wheels, and Ione Community, joined together to serve at the annual Farms of Amador Farm Tour and Dinner event held at the Amador Flower Farm.

Shenandoah Valley Club kept up the good work the following at the Spaghetti Western and Fiddletown has been busy assembling a care package for a local servicemember and 4-H alum. El Dorado County 4-H members hosted games at the Farm Bureau's Annual Dinner and collected over 150 pounds of aluminum pop tops to donate to the Ronald McDonald House Charity.



Not only are 4-H members supporting the community, they are also developing skills in communication and cooperation, all while building character and being responsible citizens. A special thank you to all of the 4-H volunteers and parents that are always there to support these kids. If you have an event that you

would like to have 4-H members involved in please contact a local club leader, or your county 4-H office for more information.



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## JOIN THE CLUB

**Enrollment for the 2023-2024 Program Year begins August 15th**

Would you like to be notified when 4-H enrollment opens?

Join our interest list and be the first to know!

**JOIN 4-H INTEREST LIST**



**UCCE Central Sierra 4-H Website**

**UCCE Central Sierra 4-H eNews**

If you are interested in joining a 4-H project or becoming a volunteer to help the 4-H youth grow and achieve, please contact your [local 4-H Office](#) or email [centralsierrafourh@ucanr.edu](mailto:centralsierrafourh@ucanr.edu).

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# CA STATE FAIR & FOOD FESTIVAL

JULY 14-30, 2023

California State Fair  
July 14 - 30, 2023



## STACK 'EM UP

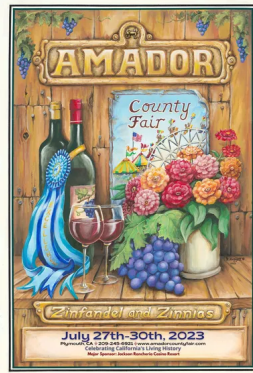
BUILD YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

4-H Youth Development Program

State Leadership Conference  
July 27 - 30, 2023



Amador County Fair  
July 27- 30, 2023

### NOW HIRING

#### 4-H COMMUNITY EDUCATION SPECIALIST 2

JACKSON | AMADOR COUNTY

50% Variable  
JOB ID 55806



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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Cooperative Extension

UC ANR is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

APPLY NOW

### Employment Opportunity

Amador County, CA - The University of California Cooperative Extension is hiring a 4-H Community Education Specialist (CES) 2 to coordinate, manage, and deliver 4-H programming to community members through a combination of direct education and volunteer management.

The CES will build and maintain an informal network of partners, align special education projects with UC approved curricula and educational materials, develop news releases and news articles, and maintain subject matter competence.



*UCCE Master Gardeners are community members who have been trained under the direction of the University of California Cooperative Extension. Each volunteer has completed more than 50 hours of formal classroom training to provide practical scientific gardening information to the home gardeners.*

### UCCE Master Gardeners of Amador County



**Come see the Master Gardeners at the Farmers Market!**

They are available to answer your garden or landscape questions.





**Sutter Creek Farmers Market**  
Saturdays | 9:00AM - 12:00PM  
July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29



**Lone Farmers Market**  
Wednesdays | 5:00PM - 8:00PM  
July 5, 12, 19 & 26

**Open Garden Day**  
**July 15, 2023 | 8:30AM - 10:30AM**  
Motherlode Land Trust C & C Ranch

Come out and meet the Master Gardeners! Ask questions about gardening or get a tour. We will have the Heritage Rose Garden, Compost Area, Food Gardens and Propagation House open for viewing!



Join the UC Master Gardeners of Amador County &  
Amador County Library

***Grow with Us*** ☀



**Butterflies & Pollinators!**  
**July 20<sup>th</sup>**

Sign up for a 30 minute slot

2, 2:30, 3, 3:30p.m.

This hands-on class for all ages will discuss the plants that support our local butterflies. Examine why some function as hosts for food and reproduction, while others only supply nectar. Participants will plant and take home their own mini butterfly garden and install a "puddling station" where butterflies can get a drink.

Call 209-223-6400 or stop by the library to RSVP.

**NEW LOCATION!**  
ACRA Community Garden  
1334 Jackson Gate Road



Amador County Main Library  
530 Sutter Street  
Jackson CA 95642  
209-223-6400



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program  
Amador County



LUNCH  
LIBRARY



CALIFORNIA  
STATE LIBRARY

Lunch at the Library is a project of the California State Library, supported with funds from the State of California.



**Amador County Fair**  
**July 27 - 30, 2023**

Amador County Fairgrounds

Master Gardeners will be at the fair to answer your garden or landscape questions. Come by to learn about compost, roses, herbs and much more.

**2024 UCCE Master Gardener Training Class**

1. Do you enjoy getting your hands dirty?
2. Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge?

3. Do you want to meet new people who share your gardening passion?

If you answered YES -- you may be an ideal UCCE Master Gardener candidate!

During an 18-week course you will be trained by the University of California in science-based horticulture and then volunteer your time teaching others about sustainable, research-based gardening practices. Topics include: botany, soil, plant pathology, home orchards, entomology, water, pests, landscape trees, composting, propagation, fire resilience, native plants and so much more! Classes will take place in Amador and El Dorado Counties. If this interests you, please plan to attend an informational orientation. [Learn More](#)



## [UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County](#)

**Open Garden Days**  
**Every Friday & Saturday | 9:00AM-12:00PM**  
[Sherwood Demonstration Garden, Placerville](#)

Need garden inspiration? There are [16 individual demonstrations gardens](#) ranging from the Shade Garden to the Rock Garden and everything in between.

Master Gardeners are committed to educating the general public on sustainable horticulture and pest management based on traditional, current, and evolving research.

[Sherwood Demonstration Garden](#) is designed to provide the public with a hands-on, interactive experience about research-based, sustainable gardening practices specific to the west slope of El Dorado County, appropriate for all ages and cultures, and reflective of a variety of environments and gardening experiences.



Please visit our [Calendar of Events](#) to download a flyer with all of our fun garden activities this month.



### **Master Gardeners Go to Market**

Visit with UCCE Master Gardener volunteers at both the El Dorado Hills and Placerville farmers markets! Bring your questions and garden conversations. Local vegetable planting guides are available for \$5 as well as other UC gardening books. Check out the [calendar](#) for dates and times.

**Succulents**  
**July 12 | 9:00AM - 12:00PM**  
[Cameron Park Community Center](#)

Find out what you have wanted to know about growing succulents through this interactive presentation with hands-on activities. Learn how to properly grow, water and display these water-efficient plants. Learn strategies to prevent your succulents from freezing and watch propagation demonstrations. Bring a mug or cup with a drainage hole if you would like to create a teacup garden. We'll provide the soil and the plants!



**Pruning and Care of Fruit Trees in the Summer**  
**July 29 | 9:00AM - 12:00PM**  
[Sherwood Demonstration Garden](#)

Come out to the beautiful and educational Sherwood Demonstration Garden to learn the benefits of summer fruit tree pruning: what to prune in the summer vs winter, the reasoning, creating fruitful trees, and more. In this informative class for beginners as well as intermediate learners, different pruning



techniques will be demonstrated along with general fruit tree care of pome, stone, persimmon, and citrus trees.

## Grow for It!



### Growing Kalanchoe

By Kitty Stewart, UCCE Master Gardener of El Dorado County

Kalanchoe, pronounced KAL-ən-KOH-ee, are succulents in the Stonecrop family. With over 125 varieties, these imported plants from Africa and Madagascar come in many shapes and colors, and in sizes from 6 inches to 6 feet tall and wide. Leaves are often fluted or serrated, and can have varying colors, depending on the variety and the sunlight exposure. For example, the leaves of the *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana* will change to a deep red when exposed to direct sunlight, thus the nickname "Flaming Katy" or "Christmas Kalanchoe." Flowers are seasonal, and can be white, pink, or deeper shades of red, orange, or yellow. The flowers can be bell-shaped or tubular, and some of the double blossoms even have up to 26 petals.

Kalanchoe should be watered infrequently and need to dry out completely between waterings. They are sensitive to root rot, so plant them in cactus mix or other soil that drains completely. Fertilize lightly and only once a month. If they wilt slightly, they will recover quickly after watering. Because they thrive so well in dry conditions, they make great houseplants in our low humidity. They can grow adequately outdoors if protected from freezing, but really prefer temperatures over 50 degrees, so a sunny window or protective greenhouse is best for them in the wintertime. In the summer they can tolerate full sun but do best with afternoon shade or filtered sunlight.

To induce your kalanchoe to bloom, it will require a 6–12-week season of shorter days. The plants need 14–16-hour darkness each day to set flowers, so store them in a darker room in the winter until you see the blossoms form. Once the flowers set, you can expose them to more typical daylight hours and they will bloom within a month or so. Cooler temperatures during blooming help keep the flowers from wilting.

Although generally healthy, kalanchoe can be afflicted by aphids or gnats, which should be removed by picking off or by washing the leaves with water. If grown in a very humid environment, the plants can develop a blistering condition called edema. This causes small dry areas to form on the leaves. Although it leaves ugly scars on the leaves, it is not dangerous, and new leaves will not be affected once the plant is allowed to dry out.

Kalanchoe can be propagated by pinching off the tips of stems, with two or more sets of small leaves. These pieces can then be rooted in water or planting media. Certain varieties, such as the chandelier plant, *Kalanchoe delagoensis*, develop small plantlets along the leaves or on stems, and these can be pinched off to propagate as well. Kalanchoe look best if snipped back occasionally, or if they get leggy from too little sunlight.

Kalanchoe are delightful succulents that can brighten up your windowsill or patio with colored leaves and fanciful flowers. Make sure to check out the various types that are available and watch them grow without

much help - they prefer to be ignored!

Have a gardening question? Master Gardeners are working hard to answer your questions. Use the "Ask a Master Gardener" option on our [website](#) or leave a message at (530) 621-5512.



**Questions about your home garden or landscape?  
Interested in upcoming classes and events?**

**UCCE Master Gardeners are available to answer your questions!**

**Visit the UCCE Central Sierra Master Gardeners Websites**

## Central Sierra UCCE Master Food Preservers of Central Sierra



*The UCCE Master Food Preserver program trains dedicated volunteers to assist the county UC Cooperative Extension staff provide up-to-date food preservation information. Our current program is active in El Dorado, Amador, Tuolumne, and Calaveras counties.*

### **Christmas in July July 15, 2023 9:30AM - 11:30AM**

[Bethell Delfino Ag Building - Conference Room Kitchen](#)

Christmas in July?? 'Tis the season for beautiful California veggies and fruits, and when the fruit is ripe for picking, it's time to start preserving. With the holidays in mind (pickles and preserves make great gifts!), we'll present creative ideas for every month and give a lesson on how to make the most beautiful gift baskets. Discussion will include:

- Basic Sanitation and Food Safety
- How to sanitize baskets purchased from thrift stores
- Basic High Acid Canning Skills
- Using Research based/Approved Recipes
- Safe Dehydration and Freezing techniques

Class is free, but please register to attend as space is limited. [Register Here](#)



### **Jerky - Let's Get Chewing July 29, 2023 9:00AM - 11:00AM**

[Bethell Delfino Ag Building - Conference Room Kitchen](#)

Come and learn how to make jerky. Master Food Preservers will demonstrate how they've made jerky using various foods, including meat, tofu and watermelon.

The objective is to teach safe ways to make jerky by emphasizing basic sanitation and food safety, dehydrating

(with jerky, this is post-cooking), freezing techniques and skills, and storage, using research-based recipes. This class is free, but please register to attend as space is limited. [Register Here](#)

### **Questions About Food Preservation?**

Ask a UC Master Food Preserver online, any time! Plus sign up to get e-news, event updates and free class schedules delivered to

### **El Dorado County Website**



# Ask a

## UC Master Food Preserver

### Central Sierra

your inbox each month.

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[Amador / Calaveras  
County Website](#)



*Through the CalFresh Healthy Living (CFHL) UCCE Central Sierra program, we teach free classes in local schools, community centers, libraries, and other public locations. Our classes show people how to choose, grow, cook, and enjoy affordable healthy foods, and how to make physical activity a regular and fun part of life. We also work to create environments where it's easier for people to make healthy choices, by supporting school wellness policies, community and school gardens, walking clubs, and more.*



**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

#### Harvest of the Month TOMATOES



In July many areas of the Central Sierra can expect to see tomatoes beginning to appear in local markets or ripening in gardens. This much-awaited crop is one of the best foods to enjoy in season, when its flavor is truly at its peak. Tomatoes need warm weather and plenty of time to ripen fruit, but cherry tomatoes are often one of the earliest types of tomatoes to begin ripening. Look for tomatoes in all different sizes and colors this summer to enjoy a range of different textures, tastes, and nutrients. A good source of Vitamin C and Vitamin A, tomatoes also provide dietary fiber and other trace nutrients. Red tomatoes contain lycopene, an antioxidant that is better absorbed by our bodies when tomatoes are cooked. Whether eaten fresh or cooked into dishes, tomatoes pair well with many different herbs, including basil, cilantro and thyme, and with most other foods that grow alongside tomatoes in the garden.

#### Knife Skills: Cutting a Tomato



#### All About Tomatoes

Tomatoes are available fresh and canned for good nutrition and convenience. If selecting fresh, choose tomatoes with bright, shiny skins and firm flesh. Vari...

[Read more](#)  
[fruitsandveggies.org](http://fruitsandveggies.org)

#### Tomato Recipes

[Bruschetta Salad](#)

[Leek and Mushroom Orzo](#)

[Peach Salsa](#)



#### How to Train Your Tomatoes



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CalFresh Community Education Specialist 1  
or 2 | San Andreas, CA

This position is a career appointment that is 100% fixed and is being advertised as either a [Community Education Specialist \(CES\) 1 or 2](#) depending on the level of experience of the hired applicant. If hired as a CES 1, they will be hired in a learning role. If hired as a CES 2, duties would include providing leadership, mentoring to interns staff, and CES 1 staff. As well as actively promoting policy, system and environmental changes at educational sites.

[Apply Now](#)



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CalFresh Community Education Specialist 2 |  
Sonora, CA

The [Community Education Specialist 2](#) will be responsible for the coordination, management, and delivery of nutrition education to community-based adults and/or youth. This position's primary focus will be on conducting, managing, and evaluating a nutrition education program to improve the environment of the school and community. This position is a career appointment that is 100% fixed.

[Apply Now](#)

Help us improve our newsletter! What is one thing you would like to see more of?

Academic Research

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Community Partner Resources

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Educational Resources

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Events & Classes

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Staff Spotlights

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UC ANR Statewide Programs

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UCCE Program Highlights

Select

Nothing, the newsletter is great!

Select

Other (Feel free to send us an email and share 😊)

Select

## More UCCE Central Sierra Programs



[Living with Fire](#)



[Livestock](#)



[Natural Resources](#)



[Oaks & Rangelands](#)



[UC California Naturalist Program](#)



## UC ANR [Coronavirus and COVID-19](#)



California is reopening all activities statewide, but it is important to remember that the pandemic is not over and COVID-19 remains a health threat. As we plan and implement a return to in-

person ANR programs, we should stay informed about COVID-19 trends statewide and in our communities. Here are a few resources from the CDPH and other trusted sources.

- [Public Health Order](#)
- [Beyond the Blueprint](#)
- [Tracking COVID-19 in California](#)
- [COVID-19 Dashboards and Data](#)
- [Get Local Information](#)
- [COVID-19 Case Map](#)

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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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