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**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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# Central Sierra

December 2023

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

## Season's Greetings!

As we reflect on the close of 2023, we are reminded of just how wonderful our community of staff, volunteers, clients, and supporters is. The passion and dedication each of you gives to our Central Sierra communities is truly humbling. In that spirit, we hope your holiday season is filled with giving, caring, and making a difference. From all of us at UCCE Central Sierra, we wish you the joy of family, the gift of friends, and the best of everything in 2024! We look forward to serving you in the new year



**Please Note:** All UCCE offices will be closed for Winter Curtailment December 23, 2023-January 2, 2024, and will re-open on Wednesday, January 3. Happy holidays!



## Central Sierra 4-H Youth Development Program

## Youth Development Program

Monthly update of 4-H news and events in the Central Sierra.

### In this Issue:

- Parade Season for Central Sierra 4-H Clubs
- Clover at Home for the Holidays: Free Holiday Craft Guide
- New Staff Highlight: Alissa Hardie
- How Can Youth Help?
- New "4-H Volunteers Insights & Inspiration" Podcast
- The 4-H Emblem
- Adult Volunteer Opportunities

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### CLOVER at Home for the Holidays

This holiday season, unwrap the gift of exploration and creativity, and find your spark in the most festive and delightful way possible! Step into a winter wonderland of creativity and discovery with this selection of fun and delicious (and, yes, educational!) activities that will spark curiosity and passion, helping kids discover the joy of science, baking, and crafting. [Download Activity Guide](#)



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4-H Youth Development Program

## Central Sierra Agriculture & Livestock

### 12/5/2023 - Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) Situation Report

Since the last situation report (11/28/23), there have been 3 new VSV-affected premises identified (1 confirmed positive, 2 suspect) in California. All confirmed cases to date have been vesicular stomatitis New Jersey virus (VSNJV) serotype. Updates are as follows:

Fresno County

- 1 new confirmed positive equine

Madera County

- 2 new suspect equine premises

Additionally, the following previously confirmed positive or suspect premises have been released from quarantine: 8 premises in Fresno County, 5 premises in Madera County, 4 premises in Mariposa County, and 5 premises in Tuolumne County. [Read More](#)



*Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) is a viral disease agent that affects primarily horses and cattle and occasionally swine, sheep, goats, llamas and alpacas. Humans that handle affected animals may become infected, but this is a rare event.*



Amador Resource Conservation District  
**Healthy Soils Program**  
*Working to improve the health of our soils*

The statewide California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Healthy Soils Program anticipates opening a grant application period for direct-to-farmer grants in January 2024. Approximately \$11 million is expected to be available. The Amador RCD is available to help farmers and ranchers in Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Alpine counties develop projects and submit applications. To learn more about technical and financial assistance join us at our December 18th workshop.

**Benefits of Healthy Soil Practices**

- Improves crop and forage health
- Increases soil water-holding capacity
- Reduces soil erosion and on-farm dust
- Improves water and air quality
- Supports wildlife habitats
- Reduces greenhouse gases
- Stores soil carbon

**Practices Include**

- Compost Application
- Range Seeding
- Mulching
- Hedgerow Installation
- Cover Cropping
- And many more...

**Join us for more information:**  
**December 18, 2023**  
**5:00pm**  
**12200-B Airport Rd.**  
**Jackson, CA 95642**

**AMADOR RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
 amadorrcd.org



## UCCE Central Sierra eNews: Agriculture & Livestock

Monthly update of news & events related to agriculture and livestock in the Central Sierra.

### In this Issue:

- Healthy Soils Program Workshop
- 32 New BQA Certified Producers
- Vesicular Stomatitis (VSV) Cases in the Central Sierra
- VSV Management
- Targeted Grazing
- Matchgraze.com
- Meet Your Advisor

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## Meet Your Community Health and Nutrition Advisor

**Kitty Oppliger** began working with UC Cooperative Extension on October 23rd as the Community Health and Nutrition advisor for the

[UCCE Central Sierra eNews:](#)

## Community Health & Nutrition

Monthly update of CalFresh Healthy Living news & event, Harvest of the Month and more!

### In this Issue:

- Harvest of the Month: Turnips
- Recipe of the Month: Latkes
- New Staff: Elissa Bunn
- Growing Turnips
- Meet Your Advisor
- Employment Opportunity
- CalFresh Healthy Living Mission

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Central Sierra and Placer/Nevada counties. Kitty aims to create a program centering cultural resilience and holistic health for the diverse communities throughout this region. Her role will address community needs within the broad areas of healthy lifestyles, health

equity, food and water security, Indigenous food sovereignty, and climate change.

Oppliger was born and raised in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, a highly rural region with a prominent Native American presence. She worked with tribal elders to develop sustainable and resilient food systems at Michigan Tech University during her undergraduate education in Ecology and Biology.

She transitioned to a career in Health and nutrition, earning her MPH with a concentration in sustainable food systems from the University of Michigan. While there, she engaged in research on disability and nutrition; food security and assistance programs; refugee health; and most recently has been working on analysis of Heart Health programming in First Nations tribes of British Columbia. [Read More](#)



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## Central Sierra Forestry & Natural Resources

### The University of California is recruiting a Forest Stewardship Community Education Specialist (CES)

The Forest Stewardship Community Education Specialist will assist forest landowners in pre- and post-wildfire settings, and to better understand and develop management plans to protect/rebuild after forest disturbances, such as wildfire. Focus is 50% on the Forest Stewardship Education Initiative (pre-fire) and 50% on the Post-Fire Forest Resilience Program. CES will use professional, adult community educational program concepts, to deliver standardized educational workshops to private, non-industrial, private forest landowners throughout California through virtual and in-person formats. This

position is located in Tuolumne County (Sonora, CA) but will assist in statewide outreach efforts. [More Info](#)

### Where to Cut Your Christmas Tree

You can choose and cut your own Christmas tree (or have help with cutting) at tree farms on private lands in the Placerville to Camino area off Highway 50. Sales start the day after Thanksgiving and farms are open on weekends. For locations, amenities, and specific tree types, visit:

- [EDC Christmas Tree Grower's Assoc.](#)
- [California Christmas Tree Association](#)

*Christmas trees can also be cut in national forests with a USFS issued permit. Permits are limited and sell out within hours of release, mark your calendar for next year! [More Info](#)*



### 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](mailto:kcingram@ucanr.edu).



The Forest Stewardship Education Initiative is a CAL FIRE funded contract (8CAD4547), awarded July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024, to Susie Koehler, RPF#2874, University of California Cooperative Extension, to help landowners develop forest management plans.



## UCCE Central Sierra eNews: Forestry & Natural Resources

Monthly update of news & workshops related to Forestry and Natural Resources in the Central Sierra.

### In this Issue:

- [Employment Opportunity](#)
- [Save the Date: Spring Forest Stewardship Workshop](#)
- [Forest Research and Outreach](#)
- [Forest Stewardship Story Map](#)
- [Forest Inventory Video Series](#)

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## UCCE Central Sierra eNews: Master Food Preservers

Monthly update of food preservation classes & events in the Central Sierra and beyond.

### In this Issue:

- Ask a Master Food Preserver Online December 13th
- Recipe Collection
- Recorded Classes
- Free Pressure Canner Gauge Testing
- Register for Upcoming Classes

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## Ask a UC Master Food Preserver December 13 | 6:30-7:30PM | ZOOM

Join the UCCE Master Food Preservers of El Dorado County for a general Q&A session. A panel of volunteers specializing in freezing, dehydrating, canning and food safety will be available to answer your questions, share their tips, and encourage you to safely preserve food at home. December will focus on holiday gifts and UC Master Food Preserver Volunteers will show what they've preserved to give as gifts to friends and family. There will be also time to take questions regarding any food preservation topic. [Read More](#)

### 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](#)



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UC Master Food Preserver Program



### Selecting and Caring for Poinsettias

This is the time of year when Poinsettias are very available for purchase. Did you know that these beautiful plants can actually last for years and years? With proper care when choosing your Poinsettia and after bringing it home, this popular plant can bring cheer to your home during the holiday season and beyond. [Read More](#)

### Demonstration Gardens Offer Winter Hours

Believe it or not, the UC Master Gardeners



## UCCE Central Sierra eNews: Master Gardeners

### In this Issue:

- From the Rainforest: Christmas Cactus
- Holiday Plants for Home
- Demonstration Gardens: Winter Hours
- Persimmon Gardening
- Fall & Winter Vegetables
- Selecting and Caring for Poinsettias
- Little-Known Projects in

Demonstration Gardens will be open for visitors this winter, but please visit the garden website or call to confirm. Share this information with friends, family, and community! [Read More](#)

Tuolumne Co.

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