

September 2019

UC Cooperative Extension
Central Sierra News

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Serving Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado & Tuolumne counties

Your monthly news & event announcements

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Greetings!

Wow, can you believe that summer is almost over? We are ready for fall, hope you are too! We have a lot going on this month. Our UCCE Master Gardeners are getting ready for their training orientation meetings in October (see below) and 4-H Youth Development Enrollment is in full swing. The Master Food Preservers have some great classes on their schedule and this month they are offering classes in other counties through a grant they were awarded this past year. Our Natural Resources/Forestry Advisor has a couple of Prescribed Burning on Private Lands workshops coming up in October. Visit our UCCE Central Sierra website for a complete list of classes and events. Its never too early to get started.

JoLynn Miller, Director and 4-H Youth Development Advisor
University of California Cooperative Extension Central Sierra

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Central Sierra on Facebook

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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](#).

Welcome our newly hired: UC CalFresh Nutrition Educators

El Dorado County: Melissa Vilas

Melissa is a recent graduate from UC Davis with a B.S. in Nutritional Science in Public Health. She has worked for the Placer County Department of Public Health as a Nutrition Education intern, and has been working in Yolo County as a Program Coordinator for Yolo Farm to Fork, a nonprofit that brings school gardens and nutrition education to elementary schools. She is excited to be back up the hill in El Dorado County working directly with the public again with UC CalFresh. During her free time she can be found either in her vegetable garden, at Folsom Lake with her dog, or at one of the many hiking and rock climbing spots El Dorado County has to offer. Melissa can be reached at mvilas@ucanr.edu.



Tuolumne County: Katryn Weston

Katryn and her partner have run a diversified fruit and vegetable farm in Tuolumne County for ten years. She is excited to join the CalFresh Healthy Living UCCE team to become more involved with outreach, education and advocacy for healthy, fresh and nutritious food in her community. In her spare time she teaches mathematics at Columbia Junior College. She loves the mountains and music in addition to her amazing community of friends and family. Katryn can be reached at kmweston@ucanr.edu.



Drilling for Microbial Gold: Eskalen Lab Researchers Seek Biocontrol Agents for Canker Disease

Foothill Fodder - August 15, 2019

Author: Lynn Wunderlich

Marcelo Bustamante, PhD student in Akif Eskalen's lab, is on a mission. A sort of microbial safari. Only the fungi and bacteria Marcelo is collecting aren't easy to catch—they live inside the grape vine, potentially protecting it from deadly canker disease organisms. To capture these microbes, Marcelo and his lab mates use a sterile drill bit to drill a small hole in grape vine trunks and cordons, and then carefully collect the sawdust and drill shavings to culture back in the lab for bacteria and fungi. They sample both diseased and healthy vines. The hope is that some of these captured microbes will be antagonistic to one or more of the suite of fungal pathogens that comprise a serious disease complex referred to as "grape vine trunk disease" or simply, "canker."



[Biological control](#) is defined as any activity of one species that reduces the adverse effects of another species. Living organisms are the agents of biological control, and although we may think of ladybugs and [lacewings](#) when we hear the term, bacteria and fungi can be biological control agents too! Microbes can act as antagonists to other microbes, they can out-compete them for nutrients or space, or they can secrete products that inhibit their growth. In fact, many biologically based pesticides harness the products of microbes, (think [Bt](#) or [Spinosad](#))

[Continue reading Drilling for Microbial Gold: Eskalen Lab Researchers Seek Biocontrol Agents for Canker Disease blog.](#)

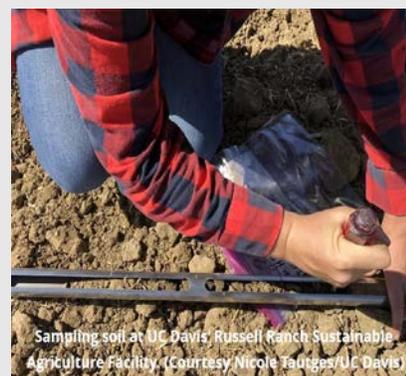
Compost Key to Sequestering Carbon in the Soil - Study Dug Deep to Uncover Which Agricultural Systems Store the Most Carbon

Author: Kat Kerlin

By moving beyond the surface level and literally digging deep, scientists at the University of California, Davis, found that compost is a key to storing carbon in semi-arid cropland soils, a strategy for offsetting CO₂ emissions.

For their 19-year study, [published in the journal *Global Change Biology*](#), scientists dug roughly 6 feet down to compare soil carbon changes in conventional, cover-cropped and compost-added plots of corn-tomato and wheat-fallow cropping systems. They found that:

- Conventional soils neither release nor store much carbon.



- Cover cropping conventional soils, while increasing carbon in the surface 12 inches, can actually lose significant amounts of carbon below that depth.
- When both compost and cover crops were added in the organic-certified system, soil carbon content increased 12.6 percent over the length of the study, or about 0.07 percent annually. That's more than the international "4 per 1000" initiative, which calls for an increase of 0.04 percent of soil carbon per year. It is also far more carbon stored than would be calculated if only the surface layer was measured.

"If we take the time and energy to look a little deeper, there's always more to the story," said co-first author Jessica Chiartas, a Ph.D. student with the UC Davis land, air and water resources department. "The soil represents a huge mass of natural resource under our feet. If we're only thinking about farming the surface of it, we're missing an opportunity. Carbon is like a second crop."

[Continue reading Compost Key to Sequestering Carbon in the Soil article.](#)

Small-scale/ Backyard Livestock and Poultry Survey

Raising backyard poultry and livestock is a growing phenomenon in the United States. The recent changes in legislation (e.g. VFD and SB-27) increases the importance of developing a Veterinary-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR) between backyard producers and veterinarians in order to maintain access to antimicrobials. One of the most recognized challenges faced by small-scale livestock producers is the lack of access to technical information and veterinary oversight.



As part of the UCCE's commitment to helping build a more resilient community, the UCCE is partnering with the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine to hold a series of workshops throughout Northern California to provide backyard producers with information on animal health and biosecurity, antimicrobial use, and ways to comply with new federal and state antimicrobial regulations. This work is being funded by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

Attached, you will find a survey that is part of the Healthy Animals, Healthy People workshop series on animal health and antimicrobial use for backyard producers. This questionnaire asks about the specific practices and perceptions that you apply to your animals' health, husbandry, and antimicrobial use. This survey also seeks to identify whether your knowledge about these topics changed after attending the regional workshops.

The questionnaire will take approximately 15-20 minutes of your time and the provided information will be kept strictly confidential. We will not connect your name with your responses. This study is being conducted for research and outreach purposes. You can choose not to participate and can quit the survey at any time. If you choose to participate, please turn in your survey before you leave. There will be no penalty or loss of services or benefits if you decide not to take part in the survey.

Survey link: https://ucdavis.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8jMboTtv9LyabAx

If you have any other questions, please contact the questionnaire administrator, [Jasmin Bardales](#), or the principal investigator ([Dr. Alda Pires](#)).

Ranch Management Survey



The [UC Davis Department of Animal Science](#) is conducting a survey to help guide and design future rancher educational programming, including Beef Quality Assurance. All collected information will remain anonymous, and will be used to improve educational programs for producers, as well as continue to benefit the beef industry.

Please consider completing the survey. Doing so will not only help inform the researchers on what is most useful and compelling to beef producers, but it might also mean a prize for you! Prizes include a YETI cooler, YETI tumblers, hats, gift cards and more.

Surveys must be received by September 30th, 2019 and prizes will be sent out in October 2019. Complete the [Ranch Management Survey](#).

Oaks in vineyards a 'win-win' for bats and growers

Green Blog - August 26, 2019

Author: Pamela Kan-Rice

Californians love their oak trees. During vineyard development, Central Coast grape growers often feel compelled to leave an old iconic oak standing, even if it ends up right in the middle of their vineyard. While driving through the Central Coast, it's not unusual to see the pattern of vineyard rows broken by a majestic oak tree. Aside from their beauty, what are some of the ecosystem services that these majestic trees provide?

Author Anne Polyakov sets up bat echolocation recorder at a tree site.

To find answers, a UC Cooperative Extension scientist in San Luis Obispo County collaborated with a U.S. Forest Service scientist to study how bats use blue oak and valley oak trees in vineyards. UC Cooperative Extension specialist Bill Tietje, a co-author of the study, says they focused on bats that eat insects because bat populations have declined dramatically in some areas due to habitat loss and disease. "And bats don't hurt grapes. As a matter of fact, thanks to the huge number of bugs they consume—bats could be very good for a vineyard."

To understand the potential value of remnant oak trees for insectivorous bats, the researchers placed microphones to detect bat calls within 14 Central Coast vineyards. The recordings

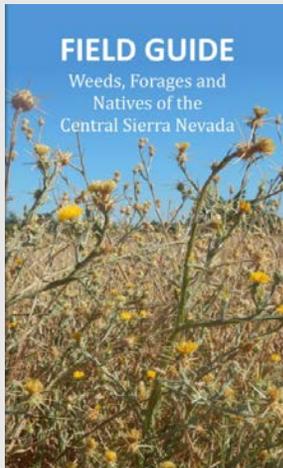


revealed 11 species of insectivorous bats foraged within the vineyards and bat foraging activity was 1.5 times greater at the trees compared to open, tree-less areas within the vineyard. And the bigger the tree, the bigger the number of bats it attracted.

[Continue reading the Oaks in vineyards a 'win-win' for bats and growers blog post.](#)

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

Prescribed Fire on Private Lands Workshop

Two Dates & Locations:

October 8, 2019

Ambulance, Fire & EOC Facility
18440 Striker Court in Sonora

October 10, 2019

American Legion Hall
11401 American Legion Drive in Sutter Creek

Workshop Topics

- Permitting and legal considerations
- CalFire'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



These one-day workshops (choose either Sonora or Sutter Creek) are designed for landowners and managers looking to gain skills in prescribed fire planning and implementation.

A follow up one day field trip will be held at UC Berkeley's Blodgett Research Forest in Georgetown (El Dorado County) during the last week of October. Participants will tour lands actively managed with prescribed fire and take part in a prescribed fire, permit and weather allowing.

The registration fee is \$30. Space is limited.

Please register at <http://ucanr.edu/2019rxworkshops>.

[Download workshop flyer.](#)

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

4-H Youth Development

Enrollment opens July 1st for the 2019-20 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](#).



Classes Offered by UCCE Master Food Preservers



University of California
Cooperative Extension

**Master
Food
Preserver**

[Amador/Calaveras](#)

9-14: [Apples & Pears - Calaveras](#)

9-18: [Pressure Canning Basics - Calaveras](#)

[El Dorado](#)

9-11: [Scapes, Garlic and Onions](#)

9-12: [Apples, Pears and More](#)

9-21: [Dehydrating: Saving Summer's Bounty](#)

[Gold County Fair, Auburn](#)

Thursday-Sunday, September 5-8, 2019

Join the UC Master Food Preservers as they demonstrate a variety of preservation methods and recipes in the Sierra Building. The

demos will be continuous, so stop in for a few minutes or make yourself comfortable and stay for an entire canning session.

Thursday, 4:00 - Raspberry Jalapeno Jam and Easy Grape Jelly

Friday, 4:00 - Blackberry Jam and Red Wine Jelly

Saturday, 11:00 - Pressure Canning Demos: Spaghetti Sauce with meat, Stewed Tomatoes, and Split Pea Soup; Boiling Water/Steam Canner Demos: Tomatillo Salsa, Chunky Basil Pasta Sauce, Zesty Salsa and Choice Salsa

Sunday, 11:00 - Pressure Canning Demos: Spaghetti Sauce with meat, Stewed Tomatoes, and Split Pea Soup; Boiling Water/Steam Canner Demos: Tomatillo Salsa, Chunky Basil Pasta Sauce, Zesty Salsa and Choice Salsa

Location: Gold Country Fairgrounds, 1273 High Street, Auburn

UCCE Master Gardener Training 2020

The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) invites adults interested in helping others learn about sustainable gardening and landscaping to apply to train as a Master Gardener volunteer. UCCE Master Gardener volunteers learn University-based scientific information and then share that knowledge with the gardening community. Master Gardener volunteers are people of all ages and from all walks of life with a common desire to help others learn about sustainable gardening and landscaping.



Any resident of Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado or Tuolumne County can apply to become a UCCE Master Gardener.

Amador and El Dorado county residents will train in both counties, 8 weeks of training in Amador County and 8 weeks in El Dorado County. Calaveras and Tuolumne county residents will train in Tuolumne County.

Applicants need reliable internet access; most communication will be through email and web-based learning. To receive information about becoming a Master Gardener, sign up on our Master Gardener Training interest list at http://ucanr.edu/be_mg if you haven't already done so.

Attend one of the training orientation meetings in your county to learn about the UCCE Master Gardener Program, our community involvement, your participation requirements, and the training requirements. Complete and submit the online application: Amador/El Dorado County by **November 4, 2019**. Calaveras/Tuolumne County by **November 11, 2019**. The application link will be given out at the orientation meetings and accessible until the due date.

Criteria for acceptance into the Master Gardener Program includes; 1) prior community service, 2) experience teaching others, either by giving presentations, writing, or in one-to-one situations, 3) experience successfully gardening.

Our commitment to Master Gardener Trainees is to teach you research-based home gardening solutions. Training topics and activities will cover basic plant science, propagation, fertilization, irrigation, soil, compost, vegetable and fruit gardening, trees, Integrated Pest Management (diseases, weeds, insects, small animals), research tools, and outreach techniques. We will provide you with a mentor and plenty of volunteer and continuing education opportunities.

RSVP to one of the below meetings in your area: http://ucanr.edu/rsvp_information_mtg.

Amador County Dates (only need to attend one):

- Tuesday, October 15 at 10:00 am
- Tuesday, October 22 at 5:00 pm
- Location: Amador County GSA Building, 12200-B Airport Road in Jackson.

El Dorado County Dates (only need to attend one):

- Thursday, October 10 at 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, October 23 at 10:00 am
- Location: Bethell-Delfino Agriculture Building, 311 Fair Lane in Placerville.

Tuolumne County Date:

- Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 3:30 pm
- Location: Tuolumne County Senior Center located on 540 Greenley Road in Sonora.

El Dorado or Amador County questions about the meeting? Call Tracy Celio at 530-621-5532 or email at tbcelio@ucanr.edu.

Calaveras or Tuolumne County questions about the meeting? Call Debbie Powell at (209) 533-5695 or email at dlpowell@ucanr.edu.

Classes & Workshops Offered by UCCE Master Gardeners

Monthly Gardening Tips

UCCE Master Gardener Training - see article above.

Amador

9-7: [Summer Fruit Tree Pruning](#)

9-21: [Building Healthy Soils](#)

Calaveras

9-5: [CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market](#)

9-12: [CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market](#)

9-19: [CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market](#)

9-26: [CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market](#)

9-28: [Open Day in the Garden - Plant Sale](#)

El Dorado

9-7: [Saturday Public Tour at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden](#)

9-11: [Scapes, Garlic & Onions](#)

9-14: [2nd Saturdays Open Garden Day](#)

9-21: [Work less, enjoy more: Gardening with our Beautiful Native Plants](#)

9-28: [Successful Gardening with Native Plants](#)

Lake Tahoe

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

Tuolumne

9-7: [Open Garden Day](#)

Visit one of our information tables at the following locations:



- The Columbia Farmory - Year round 1800 Airport Road, Columbia - Wednesdays & Saturdays from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Sonora Certified Farmer's Market - May – Oct. in downtown Sonora Saturdays from 7:30 - 11:30 am
- Lowes - Garden Center - May - Oct., Sonora, Thursdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Peaceful Valley Farmer's Market - June - Oct. in East Sonora, Fridays from 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Harvest of the Month



In late summer, melons have had time to ripen and are abundant at local farmers markets and grocery stores. Sweet melons make a healthy summer dessert and are a good source of hydration during hot weather, due to their high water and electrolyte content. While a ripe melon doesn't need any accompaniments to be enjoyed, melons are also delicious when used in many different kinds of recipes, from [salsa](#), to [salad](#), to [snacks](#), to a simple [drink](#). Learn more about melons 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...](#)

[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, Director and 4-H Youth Development Advisor
University of California Cooperative Extension Central Sierra

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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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