

October 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

Join our mailing list.

Greetings!

Welcome to Autumn, time for harvest, watching the changing fall colors and enjoying cooler weather. This month, attend a Master Food Preserver workshop, where you can learn about preserving all the wonderful things you've grown, and visit the local farmers markets for delicious fruits, vegetables, nuts, and all the other local goodies they have to offer. The Master Gardener demonstration gardens are all offering workshops, events and plant sales this month, and have great information about caring for your garden through the cold season ahead. As kids go back to school, our nutrition educators will be teaching them, as well as other community groups, about healthy eating. Back to school also means it's time for 4-H enrollment; follow the links below to sign up kids or adult volunteers. Visit our [updated UCANR website](#) for more information on any of these programs, as well as pest management, fire preparedness and much, much more. May you have a festive and colorful fall!

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



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](#).

## Amador County Master Gardeners Annual Tomato Tasting

Author: Noreen Goff



Gardeners are used to the summertime heat, and this year's Tomato Tasting temperatures were only exceeded by Amador County's enthusiasm for all things tomato. The annual UCCE Master Gardeners' Tomato Tasting held August 24th at the Sutter Creek Farmers Market drew 76 entries spread almost evenly among Red, Non-Red, and Cherry tomatoes. Two returning judges, Steve Muni and George Erdosh, as well as JoLynn Miller, UCCE Central Sierra Director and 4-H Youth Development Advisor, tasted, spit, smiled, and pondered over all the entries while making their final selections.

First place in Red tomatoes went to Susan Price of Sutter Creek with her Mountain Magic variety. Big Beef, grown in lone by Susan Port and Joan Winter, took second place; and Susan Price's Paul Robeson finished third place.

In the Non-Red category placing first was Cherokee Green from Susan Port and Joan Winter. Noreen Goff in Sutter Creek took second place with her Big Rainbow variety. Cherokee Purple was in third place, grown by Ed Morin in Pine Grove.

The Cherry category grew to 22 entries with many gardeners bringing in some more unusual varieties like Amethyst Cream, Tumbling Tom, and Chocolate Sprinkles. In the end it was Wes Schultz of Sutter Creek placing first with Tiny Tim. Coming in second and third place was Sun Gold with second place going to Abbondanza in Plymouth and third place to Tim Jelsch, also from Plymouth.

A whopping Striped German tomato weighing in at 25.8 ounces was brought in by Joyce Jillson of Harold who was awarded the price for Largest tomato at this year's event.

Amador Master Gardeners would like to thank all the home gardeners who toiled through the summer to bring in such an amazing variety of tomatoes. Perhaps, with the public tasting which followed the judging, Amador gardeners have some new varieties to try for next year. We invite you all to participate in 2020.

## Tahoe Land- Playing with Fire

### Listen to Susie Kocher, Natural resources Advisor on the September 19th episode of NPR's Tahoe Land, "Playing With Fire"

The big fear in Tahoe is that a blaze the scale of the 2018 Camp Fire in Paradise could happen, such as in a place like South Lake, where around 23,000 people live. The difference between Paradise and Tahoe is that, on any given day, there could also be tens of thousands of tourists. There's a lot being done in Tahoe when it comes to wildfires. Yet the region remains vulnerable.

[Listen now](https://www.npr.org/podcasts/628056040/tahoe-land) at <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/628056040/tahoe-land>

## Healthy soils for a healthy California

Author: Mark Bell

"Does it really take 500 to 1,000 years to form an inch of soil? No wonder we have to protect our soil."

"I've heard about soil organic matter, and I know it is supposed to be good for my soil – but how does it really help and what can I do about it?"

People increasingly have such questions as they realize the importance of living in a healthy environment and the role that healthy soils play. An overarching question from many though – including farmers, home gardeners, ranchers and natural resource managers – is, "Where can I go to get practical tips about building healthy soil?"



We're glad you asked! [UC Agriculture and Natural Resources](#) has brought its wealth of helpful information together under a new website: [Healthy Soils](#). The site provides credible, relevant, practical (how to) information to help the people of California build and protect their soils. It draws on the knowledge and expertise of more than 30 scientists spread across the UC system and beyond.

[Continue reading Healthy soils for a healthy California](#)

## Grazing for fire fuels management

Author: Matthew Shapiro



Catastrophic wildfires are becoming more frequent, more intense and more destructive in California. They are burning in a variety of vegetation types — from high-elevation northern-Californian coniferous forests to southern-Californian chaparral ecosystems — and some (e.g. the Thomas [2017] and Tubbs, Sonoma County [2017]) have been fanned by unusually strong wind events. Despite these differences, however, there is broad consensus that a major part of the uptick in catastrophic fires is the state's failure to adequately manage fuel loading in range- and forested lands.

The state is currently in the process of finalizing a document, the California Vegetation Treatment Program (VTP), which will serve as an update to their 1980s document, "Vegetation Management Program." This unwieldy document serves as the blueprint for how the state will strategically approach fuels management. Practices such as mechanical treatments (e.g. mowing, mastication), manual (e.g. weed-whacking, weed-pulling), herbicide application, and prescribed fire will be included in the VTP, as they were in the 1980s VMP. One remarkable new addition, however, will be the inclusion of grazing as an approved fuels management treatment. Accordingly, there is renewed effort around the state from the livestock and ranching communities to communicate how domestic livestock can be integrated into a responsible, long-term fuels management program.

Fundamentally, we need to think about two kinds of grazing:

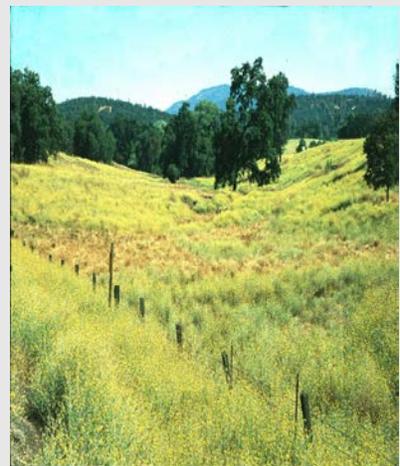
[Continue reading Grazing for fire fuels management](#)

## USDA approves release of weevil to control yellow starthistle

Author: Jeanette E Warnert

The USDA has announced it will allow the release of a weevil (*Ceratapion basicorne*) in the United States to help control yellow starthistle, an invasive weed found in 40 of the lower 48 states, reported Capital Public Radio. The weevils will initially be released in California.

*Ceratapion basicorne* is native to Eurasia, the same area where yellow starthistle originated. Yellow starthistle is thought to have been introduced into California from Chile during the Gold Rush. The weed readily took hold in California valleys and foothills, thriving in areas where the soil has been disturbed by animals grazing, road construction and wildland firebreaks. Today, yellow starthistle is a very common sight in vacant lots and fields, along roadsides and trails, in pastures and ranch lands, and in parks, open-space preserves and natural areas.



Capable of growing six feet tall and bearing flowers surrounded by inch-long spines, yellow starthistle reduces land value, prevents access to recreational areas, consumes groundwater and poisons horses.

[Continue reading USDA approves release of weevil to control yellow starthistle](#)

# Wear the right gear when using pesticides

Author: Karey Windbiel-Rojas



When using any kind of pesticide, including herbicides, it's important to read the pesticide label carefully and to be sure that you have the proper equipment for applying the pesticide correctly and safely. You will need certain clothing to protect yourself from the unwanted effects of acute (immediate) and chronic (long-term) exposure, even when applying organic or least-toxic pesticides. Personal protective equipment, or PPE, is the term used for clothing and eyewear that act as a barrier between your body and the pesticide. However, for home use pesticide products, PPE is not always listed on the label—some simply say to avoid contact with eyes, skin, or clothing. So how do you know what to wear?

## Before using a pesticide

Read the label to know what PPE you need before you handle, mix, or apply the pesticide. Minimally, protective gear should include chemical resistant gloves, eye protection, a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, socks, and closed-toed shoes.

[Continue reading Wear the right gear when using pesticides](#)

## Tuolumne County Agricultural Commissioner's Office Continuing Education Workshop



### No Fee to Attend - 3 hours CE Approved

- Pesticide Handler Training
- Pesticide Use On or Near Tribal Lands
- Nutria

**October 16, 2019**  
**9:00 am to 12:15 pm**  
18440 Striker Court  
Sonora, CA

Call the Tuolumne County Agriculture Department (209) 533-5691 or email [gshutler@co.tuolumne.ca.us](mailto:gshutler@co.tuolumne.ca.us) to register

[Download the workshop flyer](#)

## 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](mailto:sdkocher@ucanr.edu) (530) 542-2571.

## Forest Steward Workshops



### Understand and protect your Forest by creating a Forest Management Plan

Whether you own a few acres of forest or hundreds, there is a lot to know to manage your forest to reduce the risk from drought, wildfire, and insects. Attend a Forest Stewardship Workshop this fall. Cost is \$50 per participant.

**Hosted by:** The workshops will be organized by the University of California Cooperative Extension in collaboration with: CAL FIRE, Forest Landowners of California, USFS Region 5, the American Forest Foundation, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, and the California Fire Safe Council.

**For more information:** Check out the workshop webpage at <http://ucanr.edu/forestryworkshops/> or call Kevin Conway at (530) 339-0286 to subscribe to the workshop mailing list.

## Save the Date! Weed Identification & Control Workshop

### Learn how to control those tough weeds!

Do you have Yellow starthistle?  
How about medusahead or goatgrass?  
If you are a rancher or have pasture and want to learn about  
the latest techniques for controlling weeds  
come to this FREE workshop:

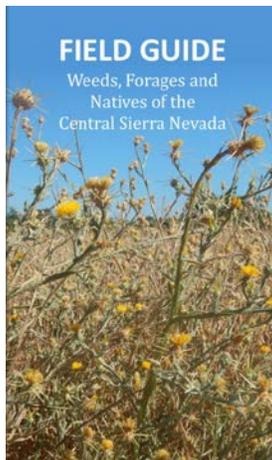
**November 18, 2019 10am -12pm**  
USFS/NRCS/RCD Conference Room  
100 Forni Road, Placerville

Register at: <http://ucanr.edu/weedworkshop>  
Questions: Call Nancy at 530-621-5502

[Download the workshop flyer](#)



## 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

## Small-scale/ Backyard Livestock and Poultry Survey

Survey link: [https://ucdavis.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8jMboTtv9LyabAx](https://ucdavis.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8jMboTtv9LyabAx)



### Background:

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).

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

Survey link: [https://ucdavis.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8jMboTtv9LyabAx](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](#)).

## UCCE 4-H Youth Development

Enrollment is open 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](#)

10-12: [Olives - Calaveras](#)

[El Dorado](#) - Note: the Master Food Preserver Make and Take workshops usually fill up quickly. Watch the [events calendar](#) for new classes and sign up early to reserve your spot!

10-5: [Make & Take Workshop:](#)

[Using Your Own Pressure Canner](#) - FULL

10-12: [Oktoberfest](#)

10-19: [Make & Take Workshop: Cheese](#) - FULL

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

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

# Classes & Workshops Offered by UCCE Master Gardeners

## Monthly Gardening Tips

UCCE Master Gardener Training - see article above.

### Amador

10-5: [Putting Your Garden to Bed & Care of Garden Tools](#)

10-19: [Fall Bulbs for Spring Color](#)

### Calaveras

10-3: [CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market](#)

10-10: [CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market](#)

10-17: [CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market](#)

10-24: [CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market](#)

10-26: [Open Day in the Garden - Plant Sale](#)

10-31: [CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market](#)

### El Dorado

10-5: [Garden Tour & Solar Viewing](#)

10-5: [Landscape Grasses](#)

10-9: [Garden Until You're 90? Safe & Sane Gardening for All Ages](#)

10-12: [Second Saturday Open Garden Day](#)

10-19: [Fall into Gardening - Family Event - Putting Your Garden to Bed](#)

10-26: [Shade Gardening](#)

### Lake Tahoe

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

### Tuolumne

10-5: [Open Garden Day](#)

**Visit one of our information tables at the following locations:**

**The Columbia Farmory** - 1800 Airport Road, Columbia

- Wednesdays & Saturdays from 11:00am - 3:00pm *Year round*

**Sonora Certified Farmer's Market** - downtown Sonora

- Saturdays from 7:30am - 11:30am *May - Oct.*

**Lowe's Garden Center** - Sonora

- Thursdays from 9:00am - 1:00pm *May - Oct.,*

**Peaceful Valley Farmer's Market** - East Sonora

- Fridays from 4:00pm - 6:00pm



## October's Harvest of the Month



Because apples are available in stores year-round, it's easy to forget that their peak season is in the Autumn – but nothing announces the arrival of Fall quite like a crisp apple. Produced at higher elevations throughout the Central Sierra, apples are available at farmers markets and local you-pick operations. Apples are known for keeping us healthy, as they are good sources of fiber, vitamin C, and potassium. Eat them in [sandwiches](#) or [salads](#), [baked with sweet potatoes](#) or in [crisps](#), or simply sprinkle sliced apples with cinnamon in a small container, cover, and shake gently to coat the slices. The cinnamon not only tastes great, it also masks browning from oxidation, which is helpful if the apple slices will be sitting in a lunchbox for a while before being eaten. Learn more about apples and view their nutrition facts at [Harvest of the Month](#).

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

### **Amador**

Please check back for events.

### **Calaveras**

Please check back for events.

### **El Dorado**

**10/13:** Youth Expo in Garden Valley

### **Lake Tahoe**

Please check back for events.

### **Tuolumne**

**10/11:** Join CalFresh Educators at [Kids Day at the Peaceful Valley Farmers Market](#)

**10/17:** Look for CalFresh Educators at the Tuolumne County Health Fair



## [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](#)

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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

530-621-5502 | 888-764-9669 | [cecentralsierra@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cecentralsierra@ucdavis.edu) | [cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu](http://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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