

January 2021

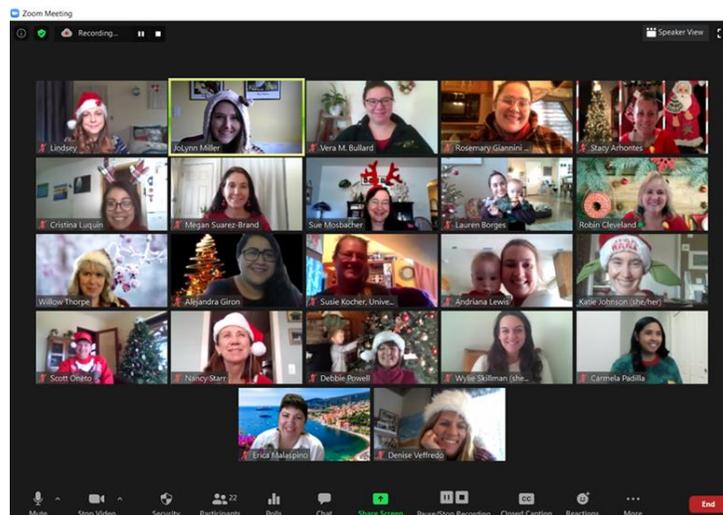


## UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra

*Serving Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado and Tuolumne counties.*

### Your monthly news & event announcements

Join our mailing list.



Happy New Year from all of us here at UCCE Central Sierra,

Never have we needed a new year more. We are working on many new virtual classes and workshops for our greater communities. And, there have definitely been some long term effects of the pandemic that we will continue in some way or another, such as online food safety and preservation videos, gardening classes, 4-H projects, that will create more opportunities for people to attend or view at a later time. As you can see, our commitment to bringing research-based learning to you remains the mission of our UC Cooperative Extension offices. And, while we continue most of our outreach in a virtual format, we continue to conduct research that benefits our communities. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our team should you have questions.

Please take care and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

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

Visit our Website

## UCANR - Coronavirus and COVID-19

As the State of California remains in the shelter-in-place order to help slow the rise of COVID-19 cases, UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra will remain closed to the public until further notice. We continue to work remotely and are always here to answer your questions and address your needs during this time. While we regret the inconvenience, our events will remain online for the near future. Please see our **calendar** or call us to learn more about the wonderful virtual classes we have coming in this NEW year.

You can contact us at our main phone number, (530) 621-5502, or by email at **[cecentralsierra@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cecentralsierra@ucdavis.edu)**.

## UC ANR Things of Interest

### Organic fertilizer AGRO GOLD WS may contain glyphosate and diquat

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) announced today (Dec. 4) that a Stop Use notice and statewide quarantine have been issued for the organic fertilizer product AGRO GOLD WS to all organic operations registered in California.

Residents who use the product in their gardens or landscapes should also be aware the product may contain weed killers, said Chris McDonald, UC Cooperative Extension natural resources advisor.

"Home gardeners should not use the organic biological amendment Agro Gold WS, which is commonly sold as a bundled package with the organic herbicide Weed Slayer," said McDonald. "CDFA has found Agro Gold WS to have been adulterated with the herbicides glyphosate and diquat, which may kill your plants."

He advises home gardeners to read the CDFA press release at **[https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/press\\_releases/Press\\_Release.asp?PRnum=20-173](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/press_releases/Press_Release.asp?PRnum=20-173)** for more information.



## UCCE Central Sierra Agriculture

### Buy local to minimize the environmental impact of live Christmas trees



Christmas tree production is a big business that offers economic benefits and environmental impacts, reported Erin Blakemore in Popular Science.

Christmas trees' environmental tolls include fuel for helicopters to harvest and trucks to transport, but UC Cooperative Extension farm advisor Lynn Wunderlich says fertilizer and pesticide use are the main culprits.

"There is pesticide use across the board," she said.

Christmas tree farmers can use integrated pest management tools to reduce pesticide use, including monitoring for pests and natural predators and selecting pest resistant trees, such as Nordmann and Turkish firs.

Glyphosate is used to manage weeds between seedlings and on the walkways between trees. Wunderlich said that since the herbicide is used in small quantities - and not on the trees themselves - consumers don't have to worry about herbicide residue in their homes.

Live Christmas trees benefit the environment by capturing carbon dioxide and storing it in their branches, roots and needles. Availability of the natural option also means fewer artificial trees are set up during the holidays.

"Artificial trees have major environmental impacts," Wunderlich said.

Since live tree impacts also stem from the distance consumers drive to purchase the trees, for the greenest tree possible, Wunderlich suggests getting to know your local tree farmer.

"Buy local, stay local," she said.

## UCCE Central Sierra Forestry

### California Forest Stewardship Workshop

#### Workshop Session and location.

- **February 2 - April 13** Tribal-focused stewardship workshop: Online and at the Big Sandy Rancheria. Registration now open!

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:

Registration for the workshop costs \$60. Materials will be provided. Breakfast and lunches will be provided for in-person workshop days.

For registration and more information see the [Forest Stewardship Workshop Webpage](#). Download the [Forest Steward Ship Workshop flyer](#).

## UCCE Central Sierra Livestock & Rangelands

### Ag Pass program aims to improve wildfire preparedness on rangeland

When the Detwiler Fire broke out near his family's ranch in 2017, Tony Toso was home to take defensive action to protect his family and animals. The Mariposa County rancher feels fortunate that he was on site.

"We were on the front end of the fire damage and it started on a Sunday," recalled Toso. "Had I not been home that day, it would have been very difficult for me to access my property and help keep our livestock safe. Within a matter of hours of the fire starting, the CHP had our county road closed and would not let anyone in."



Emergency personnel close roads around wildfires for the safety of people and to prevent them from impeding fire suppression efforts. When fire threatens large ranching operations, ranchers need to move their livestock out of harm's way and make sure they have feed and water. While volunteer groups can assist in rescuing dogs, cats, and a few sheep or horses, they don't have a rancher's knowledge, expertise and experience that are essential for managing hundreds of cattle at large-scale ranching operations.

To help rural communities prepare for wildfire, it would be helpful for farmers and ranchers to have a plan in place to coordinate with first responders, according to Max Moritz, UC Cooperative Extension wildfire specialist. Ag Pass is a program developed in Ventura County to identify farmers and ranchers to firefighters, law enforcement and other emergency personnel so they can allow them onto their property to rescue animals and identify access roads and water sources.

"Because fires are increasingly impacting people and are not going away anytime soon, we need to figure out approaches to sustainably live on fire-prone landscapes. In a broader sense, the Ag Pass is another way that we can adapt to, and coexist with, wildfire," Moritz said.

Matthew Shapero, UC Cooperative Extension livestock and range advisor, and Moritz have written a publication to guide people who would like to [create an Ag Pass Program](#) for wildfire preparedness in their own locale.

[Continue reading about the PASS Program...](#)

## UCCE Central Sierra Living with Fire

### Wildfire Home Retrofit Workshop Series

This workshop series is part of a larger project that will result in the creation of the *Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide*. The guide will contain valuable information on exactly how to harden homes against wildfire.

It will be published through University of Nevada Reno, Extension by the end of the year and will be available in print and online formats. If you'd like to receive updates on the guide after it's released, please add yourself to the email list [here](#).

If you'd like to learn more about home hardening in depth, watch the Wildfire Home Retrofit Workshop for the Public and/or the Wildfire Home Retrofit Workshop for Building Professionals by following the buttons in this article.

#### **Wildfire Home Retrofit Workshop for the Public.**



**Wildfire Home Retrofit Workshop for Fire Professionals and Educators.**  
[Review the FAQs for Building Professionals](#)



**Wildfire Home Retrofit Workshop for Building Professionals**



## UCCE Central Sierra Master Food Preservers

As we create a plan to return to work we are still working remotely to answer your questions and address needs during this time. We are working to provide more virtual presentations for our communities to learn safe home food preservation. Check out our [website](#), we have many [articles](#) and tested [recipes](#) for you. Or, if you have a food safety or food preservation question, see our "[Ask a Master Food Preserver](#)" webpage or call 530-621-5506 to leave a message and someone will return your call.

Thank you for your understanding.



## Upcoming Food Preservation Classes

Master Food Preserver Programs in our area have been working on presenting live, online food safety and preservation classes. They are working on their 2021 schedule now. You must register to get the link to join the classes and in most cases any residents of Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado and Tuolumne counties may attend these classes:

### 1-9: [Preserving Citrus Online Class](#)

Learn how to can, dehydrate and freeze citrus so you can use it throughout the year in your family's meals. See how you can use almost all parts of citrus by making marmalades, jellies, jams, curds, candied citrus peel, preserved peels, citrus salt, powdered citrus peel, and edible potpourri. Get tips and tricks to make your citrus maintain top quality in the freezer. Throughout the class you'll receive suggestions on how to incorporate preserved citrus in meals. You'll receive lots of recipes and ideas to try on your own at home.

Register for this **free** class at [http://ucanr.edu/jan9\\_mfpclass](http://ucanr.edu/jan9_mfpclass). (After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the class.)

[Check their online calendar for upcoming classes to be posted soon.](#)

## Follow Us Online

### [UCCE Master Food Preservers of Central Sierra](#)

#### Amador/Calaveras

- Phone: 209-223-6482
- Email: [acmfp@ucanr.edu](mailto:acmfp@ucanr.edu)
- Online: [Ask a Master Food Preserver](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)

#### El Dorado County

- Phone: 530-621-5506
- Email: [edmfp@ucanr.edu](mailto:edmfp@ucanr.edu)
- Online: [Ask a Master Food Preserver](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)

### [UC Master Food Preserver Program](#)

[Publications Library](#)

[Recipe Card Library](#).

[Video Library](#)

## UCCE Central Sierra Master Gardeners

As we begin to plan more online learning opportunities for the 2021 year, our UCCE Master Gardeners are available to answer your questions! When leaving phone messages, be sure to include your contact information so we can get back to you with answers. You can also explore our online resources, including [monthly gardening tips](#), original articles written by UCCE Master Gardeners in [Amador](#), [Calaveras](#), [El Dorado](#), and [Tuolumne](#) Counties, and [South Lake Tahoe](#), and [Over the Garden Gate](#), a radio show presented by the UCCE Master Gardeners of Tuolumne County's, by visiting our [UCCE Master Gardeners of Central Sierra website](#) anytime!



## [Gardening Classes & Events Calendar](#)

Master Gardener Programs across our 4 county area have been hosting live online gardening classes. You must register to get the link to join the classes in most cases and any residents of Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado and Tuolumne counties may attend these classes:

**1-16: [Weeds We Love to Hate: Controlling Yellow Starthistle - Oblong Spurge and more - Online Class](#)**, hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of Amador County

**1-30: [Spring & Summer Vegetables Online Class](#)**, hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

## Online Class Recordings

Amador County's [Handouts and Presentations webpage](#).

El Dorado County's [Presentations and Handouts webpage](#).

Tuolumne County's [Presentations and Class Recordings webpage](#).

Tuolumne County's [Over the Garden Gate Master Gardeners' local broadcast](#).

Check out our [YouTube videos](#) to find more...

## Poinsettias, After the Holidays

Now that Christmas has passed and the holidays are winding down, what will you do with all those holiday plants? Live trees can be planted outside, but plants, like poinsettias, cannot live outside in the Mother Lode. You can keep them as houseplants and, with proper care, you may be able to use them next year. Knowing where the plant comes from will provide information about the environment it needs in order to thrive.



Poinsettias (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) are native to the southern Mexican town of Taxco del Alarcon and parts of Central America. The weather in this area is mild, with highs of 81 degrees Fahrenheit and lows of 55 degrees Fahrenheit. The Aztecs used the leaves (they aren't flowers, but "bracts") to make a purple dye for clothing. They used the milky sap to make medicine to treat fevers. The milky sap is what produces latex. The plant was introduced to North America by the first American ambassador to Mexico, Joel Roberts Poinsett (1779-1851).

The plant likes bright, but filtered light. If the temperature drops below 55 degrees Fahrenheit, the plant will suffer. It needs to be watered sparingly. Overwatering can cause fungus in the roots as well as gray mold. When the top layer of the planting medium dries out, it is time to water. You can increase the flowering period by misting the plant regularly. Feed monthly with a low nitrogen, high potassium fertilizer.

Continue reading the [Poinsettias, After the Holidays article](#).

## Save Our Polystyrene Event - delayed

Save our Polystyrene Event will be delayed due to COVID 19 restrictions

Every year the UCCE Master Gardeners of Tuolumne County start off the new year by having one of their largest and most popular events which is "Save our Polystyrene." The Master Gardeners collect polystyrene otherwise known as Styrofoam usually the third weekend in January. After two days of collecting, many hundreds of pounds of Styrofoam have been diverted from the landfill. The polystyrene that is collected fill three 40 foot dumpsters.

This year due to COVID 19 restrictions, this event will have to be postponed. We realize that many of our residents collect Styrofoam and save it for this collection event. In fact, many eco conscious residents collect polystyrene all year long in anticipation for this event. Many residents of Tuolumne County may not be aware that all the landfills in the county have been closed and all waste material is trucked out of the county. We understand if you cannot wait any longer for this event, but we ask you to take the polystyrene to one of the recycling centers that do accept polystyrene. Listed below are two facilities that will accept the polystyrene.

[Dart Container Corporation](#) accepts polystyrene 24 hours a day. They have a bin on their property close to highway 12 that is available for drop off.

**209 333-8088**

1400 E Victor Road, Lodi, CA 95240

[Foam Fabricators](#) will accept expanded polystyrene, Monday through Thursday 7:00 am through 3:00 pm. They are also open Friday from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm. When you arrive at their facility please call their phone number and someone will meet you at their gate to accept the expanded polystyrene.

**209 523-7002**

301 9th Street, Modesto, CA 95351

If you're still in need of further recycling information, check out the [Earth 911 website](#). Their website offers information about what to recycle and where, based on your zip code.

## Follow us on social media!

### [Find Our Class Recordings on YouTube](#)

#### [Master Gardeners of Amador County](#)

- Phone: 209-223-6838
- Email: [mgamador@ucanr.edu](mailto:mgamador@ucanr.edu)
- Online: [Ask a Master Gardener](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)

#### [Master Gardeners of Calaveras County](#)

- Phone: 209-754-2880
- Email: [calaverasmg@ucanr.edu](mailto:calaverasmg@ucanr.edu)
- Online: [Ask a Master Gardener](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)

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

- Phone: 530-621-5512
- Email: [mgeldorado@ucanr.edu](mailto:mgeldorado@ucanr.edu)
- Online: [Ask a Master Gardener](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)
- Follow us on [Instagram](#)
- Follow us on [Pinterest](#)

#### [Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe](#)

- Phone: 530-314-8383
- Email: [laketahoemg@ucanr.edu](mailto:laketahoemg@ucanr.edu)
- Online: [Ask a Master Gardener](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)
- Follow us on [Instagram](#)

#### [Master Gardeners of Tuolumne County](#)

- Phone: 209-533-5912
- Online: [Ask a Master Gardener](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)

Join us on Facebook for our Victory Gardens 2020 community! Click the link and click JOIN.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2869134093201149/>

Open to ANY resident of Calaveras, Amador, El Dorado or Tuolumne Counties.

## [UCCE Central Sierra 4-H Youth Development](#)

**Mars Base Camp Kits for Families and Educators in Calaveras County**

This fall, STEM Challenge Kits were delivered to all 6th grade students in Calaveras County (approximately 405 youth). Through a partnership with the Office of Education, a Calaveras County 4-H branded letter was inserted into every kit. The kits included four hands-on activities that can be enjoyed with or without internet access and individually or all together, the challenge kits are intended to teach kids STEM skills like mechanical engineering, physics, computer science and agriculture. The statewide STEM team hosted a webinar for the 6th grade teachers about using the kits. Kits are being sent home for youth to do at home and some schools are doing the experiments in the classroom first and then sending the kits home with the students. Much depends on the school and if they are meeting in person or conducting virtual learning. The County Office of Education is delighted about this partnership and sees a future in other collaborations. This project also helped with 4-H recruitment of youth and adults.

If you have any questions, please contact [Rosemary Giannini](#).

## 4-H Youth Development Calendar

**Enrollment is open for the 2020/2021 Program Year.**

### [Join 4-H Now](#)

Check your county 4-H website for details about the 4-H Youth Development Program in your area. There you will find information about joining 4-H and becoming a member, the clubs and projects available and the calendar of events.

[Amador County website](#)

[Calaveras County website](#)

[El Dorado County website](#)

[Tuolumne County website](#)

Coming up...

**December 2020:** El Dorado County 4-H completed their county record book judging. 16 members from El Dorado County, receive a Gold at Club level and 2 members from Amador County received a gold at club level. The County judging will wrap up by January 1st 2021 and we will announce the results.

**Due by January 25<sup>th</sup> by 5pm:** EDC Camp JC applications are now open and can be found here at [https://ucanr.edu/sites/edc\\_4-h\\_program/Events/Camp/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/edc_4-h_program/Events/Camp/). Applications can be mailed to UCCE Central Sierra: 4-H, 311 Fair Lane, Placerville, 95667 or emailed to [dveffredo@ucanr.edu](mailto:dveffredo@ucanr.edu).

**February 6<sup>th</sup>** - joint virtual presentation day with El Dorado and Amador Counties. Sign ups will open after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. We are looking for virtual judges. Please let us know if you are interested. Contact [Vera Bullard](#) or [Denise Veffredo](#) with questions.

## Join us on social media & follow 4-H from home!

Visit your county's Facebook page for updates and activities to help keep us all connected:

[Amador 4-H](#)

[Calaveras 4-H](#)

[El Dorado 4-H](#)

[South LakeTahoe 4-H](#)

[Tuolumne 4-H](#)

[California 4-H](#)

[California 4-H at Home webpage](#)



[Amador 4-H](#), [Calaveras 4-H](#), [El Dorado 4-H](#), and [Tuolumne 4-H](#) are also officially on Instagram! Follow [@California4H](#) to see what's happening around the state. We will be posting fun activities and resources - be sure to check it out!

## UCCE Central Sierra Community Health & Nutrition

Visit our [UCCE Central Sierra COVID-19 Community Resources](#) page for the latest information about food resources and topics in your area.

### Nutrition News for the Central Sierra

Welcome to our monthly newsletter about food, nutrition, and healthy living in the Central Sierra.

To read the [most recent newsletter](#), or peruse past issues, visit our [website](#), or click below to subscribe.



[Click here to join the Nutrition Newsletter Mailing List.](#)

### South Lake Tahoe Virtual Nutrition Lessons at Bijou Community School

Tahoe is starting the New Year with Virtual Nutrition Lessons at Bijou Community School through Zoom. We will be using the GGG, GFYM and SUMP curriculum we have from a kinder, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade class. These lessons provide flexibility and options for students to learn. We are excited to deliver these lessons, our goal is to be deliver nutrition lessons throughout all three elementary schools.

### Harvest of the Month



January is a time many of us turn to healthier foods, and one good way to do that is to include leafy greens in our daily meals. Kale is a particularly nutritious green vegetable, whether eaten cooked until tender or raw in salads and smoothies. It is an excellent source of vitamins A, K and C, and a good source of vitamin B6, calcium and other minerals. Kale comes in many different varieties including the frilly curly kale, the ruffled Purple Russian, and the deep green, bumpy Tuscan kale (a.k.a. Dinosaur kale for its theoretical resemblance to dinosaur skin). Kale is especially delicious this time of year when the cool weather helps it to develop a sweet and mild flavor. See below for healthy recipe ideas to make kale a part of your meals this January, or learn more about kale and view its nutrition facts at the USDA's [Seasonal Produce Guide](#).

Recipe Ideas:

[Nellie's Kale Stew](#)

[Kale Salad with Nuts and Seasonal Fruits](#)

[Kale Chips](#)

[Simple Green Smoothie](#)

## [UCCE Integrated Pest Management and more...](#)

[Natural Enemies Gallery](#)

[Plant problem diagnostic tool](#)

[Recent Updates at IPM](#)

[Seasonal IPM](#)

[UCIPM Green Bulletin - Fall 2020](#)

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

[Weed Identification and Photo Gallery](#)

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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