

May 2021



UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra

Serving Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado and Tuolumne counties.

Your monthly news & event announcements

Join our mailing list.



Greetings from UCCE Central Sierra,

It's May, and once again we are going into the hot season needing rain. Please keep your land fire safe as we enter the fire season. Sounds like we have a very dry summer in store for us.

If you haven't looked at our [calendar](#) recently, please do. We have several events coming up from Forest Stewardship workshops to Heat Illness Prevention virtual class for home gardeners to High Altitude Gardening classes hosted by the UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe. Most of our classes are still virtual so you can attend from the comfort of your own home.

We are once again participating in Big Dig Day on June 4th. UC Agriculture and Natural Resources strives to improve the lives of Californians. Through research and extension in agriculture, natural resource management, and community development, we are your trusted source of information and a partner serving your communities.

On Big Dig Day—a day to ‘dig deep to support the programs you care about’ we invite you to support the vital services that sustain our state, country, and world.

Now more than ever we know the value of community, research, and science-based information. In times of crisis—and beyond, we are here.

Please contact me if you have any 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

We are diligently working towards in-person activities but for now we have many virtual classes on our calendar. Our staff is still working remotely and we are always here to answer your questions and address your needs. Please see our [calendar](#) or call us to learn more about the wonderful virtual classes we have coming up.

You can contact us at our main phone number, (530) 621-5502, or by email at cecentralsierra@ucanr.edu.

UCCE Agriculture News

Weed Management for Small Acreages

Join UC Cooperative Extension for a **FREE** online webinar
Tuesday, May 25, 2021
6:00 – 7:30 PM

For more information and registration visit:

<http://ucanr.edu/weed-webinar>



University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources



Applications Being Accepted for California Underserved and Small Farm Producer Grant Program

Español

SACRAMENTO, April 27, 2021 - The California Department of Food and Agriculture is now accepting applications for the California Underserved and Small Farm Producer Grant Program. Applications will be accepted until Monday May 10, 2021 at 5 p.m.

This program will award competitive grants to facilitate direct assistance to individual small and mid-scale and/or socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers who need support applying for COVID-19 economic relief grant programs, and assistance with business planning and marketing strategies.

The following entities may apply during this application period: registered Non-Profit organizations, Tribal Governments, and Resource Conservation Districts.

This program has two components for which eligible applicants can apply.

Part 1: Technical Assistance for Underserved Farmers and Ranchers – Funding for technical assistance providers to support farmers and ranchers in applying for COVID-19 economic relief grant programs and assistance with business planning and marketing strategies and other business economic recovery activities.

Part 2: Direct Grant Assistance for Underserved Farmers and Ranchers – Eligible entities are also able to apply as a “regional administrator” for grant funds to distribute directly to farmers and ranchers to aid in COVID-19 economic recovery and/or leverage existing economic relief funding programs.

Approximately \$1.35 million will be made available for Part 1 and \$550,000 will be made available for Part 2.

[Review the Request for Applications for the grant program.](#)

Grant applications must be completed and submitted electronically. The application consists of two documents: an application narrative and a budget template. Both forms are available online [here](#), and can be downloaded, completed and returned via email to: grants@cdfa.ca.gov.

CDFA will host a webinar Tuesday May 4, 2021 at 1pm, to discuss the grant program and application process, and to answer questions. [Register for this webinar.](#)

Important Dates

- April 27, 2021 **RFP Application Open**
- May 10, 2021 **RFP Application Deadline**
- May 19, 2021 **Anticipated Awards Announced**

For assistance and questions related to the California Underserved and Small Producer Program process, please contact grants@cdfa.ca.gov or

thea.rittenhouse@cdfa.ca.gov.

Scientists to see whether chickens boost soil health, increase profits on organic vegetable farms.

Author: Jeannette E. Warnert

Historically, chickens were not a rare sight on farms, where they contributed to soil fertility as they freely pecked and scratched around vegetable gardens and crop land. Now, UC Cooperative Extension specialists have launched a research project to quantify the potential for chickens to be part of safe and sustainable commercial organic vegetable production.



“It’s not a new idea. A lot of farmers are trying this kind of thing,” said UC Davis International Agriculture and Development graduate student Faye Duan, the project coordinator. “But there is currently little scientific information for using chickens on a bigger scale, especially in terms of food safety concerns.”

The California trial is part of a national effort to diversify organic vegetable farms with chickens. Last year, the USDA-funded study was launched by Iowa State University horticulture professor Ajay Nair. The project also includes UC Cooperative Extension specialists Maurice Pitesky and Jeff Mitchell, based at UC Davis, and University of Kentucky entomology professor David Gonthier.

[Continue reading...](#)

Forestry News

Forest Stewardship Workshop

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
- Native American cultural vegetation management practices
- Bureau of Indian Affairs allotment and tribal lands information

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.

Check the [Forestry Stewardship Workshop webpage](#) for workshop dates.

For additional information or questions, please contact Kim Ingram, Forest Stewardship Coordinator at kcingram@ucanr.edu or Sue Carter, Assistant Tribal Administrator/Environmental Director, Big Sandy Rancheria at suecarter@bsrnation.edu.

Living with Wildfire

Be Prepared for Fire Season!

Are you prepared for fire season? There are many things that you can do to help make your home and property more fire resistant. We all face these challenges every summer as the vegetation becomes dryer and dryer. Don't let down your guard. Visit the UCCE [Living with Fire webpage](#) for information and resources.

Publications that can aid you on your endeavor of becoming more fire resistant:

[Landscaping Tips to Help Defend Your Home from Wildfire](#), UC ANR Publication 8322
Fire

[Resistant Landscaping](#) - CalFire's firesafe landscaping information.

[The Combustibility of Landscape Mulches](#), UNCE Publication

Livestock & Rangeland News

A New Warrior Released in the Battle to Control Yellow Starthistle - News Release



Yellow starthistle growing in a field in Calaveras County.
Photo: J.M. DiTomaso, UC Regents

In April 2021, scientists released a new weevil from the Mediterranean region of Europe at the Bureau of Land Management Magnolia Ranch day use area in El Dorado County, CA to join the battle against yellow starthistle.

Yellow starthistle is a plant of Old-World origin that arrived in California in the mid 1800's. It is believed that it made its way to California in contaminated alfalfa seed from Europe. It is one of California's worst noxious weeds, infesting parks, rangelands, pastures,

hay fields, orchards, vineyards, canal banks, roadsides, and other disturbed areas. Since its introduction, yellow starthistle has spread steadily and now infests nearly 15 million acres throughout the state. Disturbances created by cultivation, poorly timed mowing, road building and maintenance, or overgrazing favor this rapid colonizer. It forms dense infestations and rapidly depletes soil moisture, thus preventing the establishment of desirable species. The spiny flower heads deter many grazers, and its toxins are poisonous to horses, causing a nervous disorder called “chewing disease”, which is fatal once symptoms develop. Horses are the only animal known to be affected in this manner and should not be allowed to graze on yellow starthistle.

[Continue reading...](#)

Grazing for Soil Health & Productivity Workshop

Join the Amador RCD and Spencer Smith, accredited Savory Institute Field Professional and Modoc County rancher, in a day-long workshop examining the ways in which grazing management can be used as a tool for increasing productivity, profitability, and ecosystem health. The workshop will be held at Circle Ranch, a SimAngus seedstock producer and participant in the Western SARE funded Amador Soil Health Research & Education Project. Following the workshop, participants interested in seeing holistic management applications in different contexts may follow along for two additional days of site visits at ranches in the region. Topics that will be covered in the workshop include:



- Intro to Holistic Management
- Principles of Soil Health
- Ecological Outcome Verification (EOV)
- Using livestock as a tool to improve Ecosystem function
- Funding opportunities
- Results from compost spreading + seeding on rangeland SARE project

This workshop is made possible by funding from CDFA in order to provide technical assistance opportunities to producers interested in applying to the Healthy Soils Incentive Program.

Spaces will be limited so please register at the link below. A locally sourced lunch will be provided. If ticket cost is an issue, please contact healthysoil@amadorrcd.org — cost will not be a barrier to entry.

Schedule:

- May 22nd: Workshop at Circle Ranch, Lone
- May 23rd Morning: Site visit at Woollystar Ranch, Markleeville
- May 23rd Afternoon: Site visit at Ace Hereford Ranch, Markleeville

- May 24th: Site visit at Airola Beef Oak Canyon Ranch, Copperopolis

Date: May 22nd, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Location: Circle Ranch, Lone

Workshop Fee: \$25/person

[Register for this workshop.](#)

UCCE 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:

5-5: [Ask a UC Master Food Preserver - Live Virtual class](#) presented by the UCCE Master Food Preservers of Central Sierra

5-15: [Berries Virtual Class](#), presented by the UCCE Master Food Preservers of San Joaquin Valley

5-19: [Berries Virtual Class](#), presented by the UCCE Master Food Preservers of Sacramento County

[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

El Dorado County

- Phone: 530-621-5506

- Email: acmfp@ucanr.edu
- Online: [Ask a Master Food Preserver](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)
- Email: edmp@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 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 (registration is required):

5-1: Plant Sale, hosted by the UCCE Master Gardeners of Tuolumne County

5-3: [Kids Day in the Garden at Home](#), Sponsored by UCCE Master Gardeners of Calaveras County (registration required)

5-4: [Organic Gardening 101 Virtual Class](#) - High Elevation Gardening Series, hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe

5-8: [Kitchen Gardens Virtual Class](#), hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of Amador County

5-11: [Grow Your Own Potatoes Virtual Class](#) - High Elevation Gardening Series, hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe

5-12: [Heat Illness Prevention and Environmental Hazards in Your Garden Virtual Class](#), hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

5-15: [Oaks in El Dorado County Virtual Class](#), hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

5-15: [Plant a Pizza Kids' Class at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden](#), hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County (registration required)

5-18: [Grow Your Own Kale, Lettuce & Chard Virtual Class](#) - High Elevation Gardening Series, hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe

5-25: [Grow Your Own Beans & Peas Virtual Class](#) - High Elevation Gardening Series, hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe

6-1: [Grow Your Own Strawberries Virtual Class](#) - High Elevation Gardening Series, hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe

UCCE Master Gardeners of Calaveras County

Kids' Day in the Garden - AT HOME!

[Sign up to receive your Kids' Day Garden Bag](#)

Kids' Day in the Garden was scheduled for Saturday, May 8th. It will not take place at the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden due to COVID-19 requirements for safety.

What will be inside those bags you ask? All kinds of fun stuff that you can do at home. We want to thank our collaborative partners that made this all possible which includes First Five of Calaveras, Prevent Child Abuse Council, Dignity Health, CalFresh Healthy Living-UC, Gardens to Grow In, and the Dairy Council.

The Garden at Home bags will be distributed to various points throughout Calaveras County for selected pick up dates and times. Garden bag distribution will take place May 3rd through May 7th. Sign up for a Bag using the link above.

If you have questions contact the UCCE Master Gardener Help Line: 209 754-2880.

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...

Follow us on social media!

Find Our Class Recordings on YouTube

[Master Gardeners of Amador County](#)

- Phone: 209-223-6838
- Email: 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



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

Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

- Phone: 530-621-5512
- Email: 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
- 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 4-H Youth Development News

4-H Youth Development Calendar

Enrollment is open for the 2020/2021 Program Year.

Join 4-H Now

Check the [UCCE 4-H Central Sierra webpages](#) for 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.

4-H Dates to Note

5-7: [Drive thru Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser](#) hosted by El Dorado County County Fairgrounds Heritage Foundation. All proceeds go towards the Livestock Panel Project.

5-13 - 5-16: [Calaveras County Homecoming \(fair\)](#)

6-18 - 6-20: [El Dorado County Livestock Shows](#)

7-1 - 7-4: [Mother Lode Fair](#)

7-29 - 8-1: [Amador County Fair](#)

9-23 - 9-26: [El Dorado County Fair](#)

Do you want to help your local 4-H?

Help us beta test a new Presentation Evaluator Certification system for Presentation Days.

The purpose of the California 4-H Presentation Program is to help youth improve their public speaking abilities. Presentation events are one strategy to reach this goal by allowing youth to practice the knowledge and skills gained and receive constructive feedback on their progress. This requires that evaluations be accurate and consistent. The 4-H Public Speaking and Communications Advisory Committee has created the Presentation Evaluator Course to provide those volunteering to evaluate 4-H Presentations with an overview of the presentation program while offering best practices on how to effectively complete a presentation evaluation assessment and provide written feedback.

This new course is currently being beta tested state-wide and the 4-H Programs in Central Sierra would like to hear your feedback.

If you are interested in taking the course and providing feedback, please register for the 40 minute course in eXtension. If you don't have an eXtension account, you will need to create one. The course requires an enrollment key. Please use the enrollment key for the county you live in.

Enroll in Course:

<https://campus.extension.org/course/search.php?search=Presentation+evaluator>

Enrollment Keys: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/UC4-H/files/348644.pdf>

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.

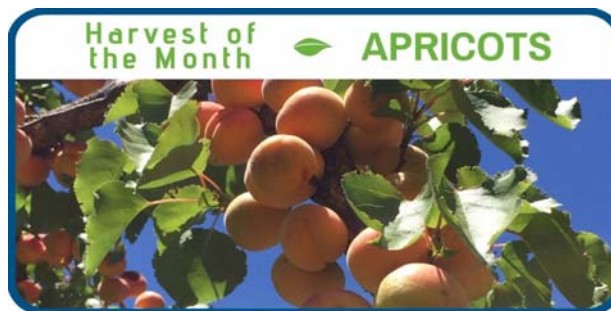
Welcome to our monthly newsletter about food, nutrition, and healthy living in the Central Sierra.

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.](#)



Harvest of the Month



Apricots are delicate stone fruits that begin to appear in markets around May in California. While the season for apricots is relatively quick, many different varieties are grown in the state, which ripen over the course of late Spring through early Summer. Apricots are sweet when ripe, although they may become more sweet-tart when baked or cooked, especially the skin and the area around the pit. Apricots are closely related to plums, and after many years of work by skilled fruit breeders the two fruits have been successfully crossed to grow entirely new types of fruits: genetically, *pluots* are majority plum with some apricot; *apriums* are majority apricot with some plum; and *plumcots* are generally a more even mix of apricot and plum. Apricots are an excellent source of Vitamin A and Vitamin C, and they also contain fiber, potassium, and Vitamin B-6. While apricots are delicious on their own, their unique flavor is also welcome in both sweet and savory dishes. See below for healthy recipe ideas starring apricots, or learn more about apricots and view their nutrition facts at the USDA's [Seasonal Produce Guide](#).

Recipe Ideas:

- [Top 10 Ways to Enjoy Apricots](#)
- [Grilled Ancho Chicken Breasts & Apricot Salsa](#)
- [Curried Brown Rice with Pumpkin Seeds, Apricots and Spinach](#)
- [Apricot Yogurt Delight](#)

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

530-621-5502 | 888-764-9669 | cecentralsierra@ucdavis.edu | 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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