**Message from the County Director**

The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) is the public service and applied research division of the University of California. UCCE is cooperatively supported by the state (University of California), county and the federal government. On November 10, 2017, we will celebrate the 100 year anniversary of our cooperative relationship with Shasta County. Generally, the University of California provides the program staff and Shasta County provides the support of the program (vehicles, office, support staff, utilities, etc.). This relationship has been largely unchanged for the past 100 years. We apply for grants to conduct applied research on issues pertinent to Shasta County agriculture, natural and human resources. This partnership allows access to the intellectual resources of the University of California to address critical issues such as rangeland and forest production, water quality, food safety, childhood obesity, wildfire, oak woodland management, integrated pest management and development of new agricultural industries.

The statewide networks of agriculture, natural resources, forestry, 4-H, and nutrition and consumer science advisors are conducting research and extending the results to farmers, ranchers, forest land owners, students, teachers and interested citizens. For more on the UC Agriculture and Natural Resource Division, visit [http://ucanr.org/index.cfm](http://ucanr.org/index.cfm).

This year, the Shasta County Cooperative Extension office had the opportunity to participate in the third annual “Farm Camp” held at Shasta College and Shasta Union High School District Farm. We were fortunate to obtain funding from National 4-H which enabled us to offer the Tech Wizard program in collaboration with a local charter school, increased the number of youth involved in the All Star Program and increased the overall participation in the 4-H program by about 10%. The CalFresh program provided lessons to over 15,106 youth and adults.

**2016-17 Shasta County UCCE Staff**

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<td>Larry Forero</td>
<td>County Director/Advisor, Livestock/Natural Resources</td>
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<td>Under Recruitment</td>
<td>Advisor, Forestry/Natural Resources</td>
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<td>Concepcion Mendoza</td>
<td>Advisor, Nutrition, Family, and Consumer Sciences</td>
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<td>Dan Marcum</td>
<td>Emeritus, Advisor, Argonomy, Eastern Shasta County, McArthur</td>
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<td>Nate Caeon</td>
<td>Community Education Specialist II, 4-H Youth Development</td>
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<td>Lori Coker</td>
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<td>Denice Doll</td>
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<td>Janessa Hartmann</td>
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**Nutrition, Family, and Consumer Sciences (NFCS)**

Concepcion Mendoza is the Nutrition Family and Consumer Science Advisor for Shasta and Trinity counties. She is trained in Biology, Food Science and Technology, as well as Food and Nutrition. Her program is centered around improving consumers’ and families’ access and decision making abilities in food, nutrition and health. Her program efforts also focus on obesity prevention.

NFCS works to promote and support the development of an accessible and sustainable community food system to integrate local food production, processing, distribution and consumption to enhance the environmental, economic, social and nutritional health in Shasta, Trinity and Tehama counties.

Her program addresses the obesity problem by offering institutional- and community-based food, nutrition, resource management, food safety and food preservation educational programs. These efforts provide essential knowledge and skills that will facilitate healthier behaviors and lead to healthy lifestyles.

This program also addresses nutrition and health problems by taking a leadership role in the constitution of the SNAP-Ed countywide collaborative of local agencies serving low-income populations. The program participates in coalitions and partnerships with other community organizations (Growing Local Coalition, Healthy Shasta Movement, Shasta Coalition for Activity and Nutrition, Shasta Food Group and the Northern Hispanic Latino Coalition) to promote and educate the community in the importance of healthy lifestyle and creating healthy communities.

Utilizing newsletters and publications, workshops, farmers’ markets, community events and educational presentations, during the last year, we provided educational programs and materials to:

- Garden workshops for schoolteachers and volunteers, creating county-wide networks and partnerships with the Master Gardener Program.
- The Farm-to-School and Farm-to-You programs, linking local farmers with local schools and consumers, supporting food-safety and grant-writing trainings to local farmers for the incorporation of healthy local products into local food systems.
- The local Farmers’ Markets Kids Club, encouraging children and families to increase consumption of local Farmers’ Markets produce and to learn where food comes from.
- The Home Food Safety and Preservation Program, increasing local community knowledge, skills and quality in home food preservation and safety management of foods from the market to the table.

Last year, the Nutrition, Family and Consumer Science provided food, nutrition, garden and health education to:

- 17,000 Shasta, Trinity and Tehama children and parents in 71 schools
- 1,500 adults and families in 55 non-profit organizations
Forestry Program

Ryan DeSantis resigned this position in midsummer this year. We are currently recruiting to fill this position with a closing date of January 2, 2017.

Ryan worked with forest land owners and foresters in Shasta, Trinity and Siskiyou Counties on complex issues associated with forestry in northern California. His program focused on the most important local forest research, extension and education needs.

Over the past year, Ryan was involved with research and education programs in Shasta, Trinity and Siskiyou Counties which includes:
- Oak woodland
- Giant-sequoia and fire history research
- Forest stewardship
- Fire ecology and fuels reduction
- Sudden Oak Death
- Phenology
- Forest and rangeland succession

Last summer, Ryan also organized and co-directed the Shasta County session of the Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT). He took on a larger role in FIT organization, direction, recruitment, curriculum and funding. The goal of FIT is to provide California’s K-12 teachers with knowledge, skills and tools to more effectively teach forest ecology and forest resource management practices. The program is co-sponsored by UCCE, the Northern California Society of American Foresters, the US Forest Service and through private donations. FIT brings natural resource specialists together with teachers from both rural and urban schools for one week, working side by side to explore the intricate interrelationship of forest ecosystems and human use of natural resources. The science-based curricula explores many subject areas, including environmental science, physical science, social science, biology, forestry and history. At each session, more than 40 local resource professionals representing many disciplines are invited to teach components of the course. Back at their schools, FIT participants conduct in-service training for colleagues and develop forestry education projects with their students. This year, the Shasta FIT program filled with teachers from across the state.

4-H Youth Development Program

Nate Caeton has been the Community Education Specialist for the 4-H Youth Development Program in Shasta and Trinity Counties for three years. Responsible for the day-to-day operations of the program, he strives for the accessible, efficient and relevant delivery of positive youth development.

The 4-H Youth Development Program provides a wide variety of enrichment activities with the ultimate goal of giving youth the skills they need to thrive and succeed throughout their lives.

The focus of all 4-H programs is positive youth development through activities in science literacy, healthy living and citizenship.

4-H Events: County Level
- Livestock Judging Day
- Fashion Revue
- Presentation Day

4-H Events: State & Regional Events
- State Leadership Conference
- California 4-H Camping Conference
- W.H.Y Conference (Regional)

In recent years, the 4-H program has participated in Farm Camp, an annual day camp partnered with Redding Recreation held in July; National 4-H Youth Science Day celebrations held each October; and Tehama County’s 4-H Summer Resident Camp. This year marked the third year of the program’s participation in Farm Camp, which has been wildly successful in helping youth make important connections between farming and agriculture and their day-to-day lives.

One of Nate’s focuses this past year has been to grow the Shasta County 4-H All Star Team, which is a leadership development project for teen members. This year, six youth were appointed to the position of All Star, with another two members as All Star Support Team Members. Seven of these youth were able to attend the California State 4-H Leadership Conference.

Nate also continues to work on a number of initiatives to expand Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) opportunities within the Shasta County program, which include participation in the Shasta County Office of Education’s Beyond the Classroom STEM Education Committee and overseeing the 4-H Tech Wizards Mentoring Program at the Academy of Personalized Learning. Through the 4-H Tech Wizards Mentoring Program youth gain experiential, hands-on education and inquiry-based science learning, by working with Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and 3D printers, in addition to receiving dedicated time with and adult or teen mentor to engage in mentoring and relationship building activities.

This versatile, dynamic program continues to adapt to the needs of youth in Shasta County. If you would like to share some time with the youth of Shasta County through 4-H or are interested in joining, please contact the 4-H Office.

4-H Events: County Level
- Livestock Judging Day
- Fashion Revue
- Presentation Day

4-H Events: State & Regional Events
- State Leadership Conference
- California 4-H Camping Conference
- W.H.Y Conference (Regional)

Shasta County Statistics
- 611 Youth Members
- 20 Community Clubs
- Ages 5-19
- 140 Adult Volunteer Leaders
- 60 projects offered
- 4-H Year: 7/1 - 6/30
Larry Forero is the Livestock/Natural Resources Advisor for Shasta County. He is trained as an animal and range scientist. His primary interests are economic and environmental rangeland forage and meat production.

The University of California Livestock/Natural Resource Program in Shasta County has been developed to address major issues impacting local producers. Projects generally fall into one of two major areas: Natural Resources and Livestock Production.

Natural Resources
- Range monitoring demonstration
- Continue an irrigated pasture water efficiency project in both the mountains and the valley
- Develop a range and pasture grass photo-identification publication
- Expand the groundwater measurement project in the Fall River Valley
- Medusahead grazing project

Livestock Production
- Publication of a marketing study in CA Agriculture 2016
- Mineral supplementation strategies for beef cattle
- Development of a cow-calf cost study in the Sacramento valley
- Ranch-to-Rail program with UC Davis
- Initiate an ionophore project on yearling steers at Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center

These projects address important issues that the extensive livestock industry will contend with locally and across the state. The results of this work are extended through the free newsletter, *Northern California Ranch Update*, as well as periodic workshops, seminars and field days. You can subscribe to this newsletter electronically on our website ([http://ceshasta.ucanr.edu](http://ceshasta.ucanr.edu)).

Over the past twelve months Larry has worked with a host of commodity organizations (Shasta County Cattlemen’s Association, Fall River Big Valley Cattlemen’s Association, Shasta-Tehama Watershed Education Coalition, Shasta County Farm Bureau, Northeastern CA Water Association) and local ranches on workshops and education field days that included:
- Winter Livestock Meetings
- Wolf Meeting
- Meeting with the CA State Water Resources Control Board so diverters could better understand SB 88
- Irrigation School

He continues to be involved in the youth steer carcass educational efforts at Shasta District and Inter-mountain Fairs.

Stacy Schneider, the office manager, works weekday mornings from 7 to 11 A.M.

### UCCE Shasta Master Gardeners Program

The mission of the Master Gardeners of Shasta County is to develop, adapt and extend research-based horticultural information and educational programs to the residents of Shasta and Tehama Counties. The Master Gardeners assist the University of California Cooperative Extension through gardening programs and horticultural activities designed to educate the public with research-based information.

The Shasta County Master Gardeners is a joint program of Shasta College and UCCE. Shasta College provides the training and organizes projects, while UCCE provides consistency with this statewide program and administrative support. There are currently about 50 active Master Gardeners and 15 new recruits who completed their training in November 2016. The UCCE Master Gardener program is a nationally recognized program for individuals who wish to increase their horticultural skills and then return that knowledge to their community as a volunteer.

In 2016, the Shasta County Master Gardeners contributed over 1761 hours of volunteer community service. Master Gardeners write a weekly column for the Redding Record Searchlight. In addition, they staff a telephone hotline and weekly booth at the Farmer’s Market to answer questions from the public. Volunteers have also spent time revitalizing the Redding Library to showcase water-wise gardening and restoring the Eaton’s house gardens. Volunteers provide worm bins to schools to teach children about soil, composting and recycling with worms. Other projects include the McConnell Arboretum, Whole Earth Festival and water-wise garden walks.

Information on integrated pest management, soils, composting, irrigation, plant selection and others are available.

Call the Master Gardener Helpline at (530) 242-2219 or Email: mastergardener@shastacollege.edu