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The University of California working in cooperation with Shasta County and the USDA.
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 a cooperatively supported effort between county and federal government, and the state (University of CA). Earlier this year on November 10, 2017, we celebrated the 100 year anniversary of our cooperative relationship with Shasta County. Generally, the University of California provides program staff with Shasta County providing the support (vehicles, office, support staff, utilities, etc.). This relationship has been largely unchanged for the past 100 years. At UCCE, we apply for grants to conduct applied research on issues pertinent to Shasta County agriculture, natural and human resources. This partnership enables 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 in Shasta County.

The statewide networks of agriculture, natural resources; forestry, 4-H, and nutrition and consumer science staff are dedicated to conducting research and extending 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.edu/.

This year, the Shasta County Cooperative Extension office had the opportunity to participate in the third annual “Farm Camp” held at Shasta College and the 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, increasing the number of youth participating in the All Star Program and the 4-H program by about 10%. In the coming year we will be recruiting and hiring a 4-H Youth Development Advisor to continue working on youth related issues in Shasta, Trinity and Tehama Counties. This year our Nutrition, Family and Consumer Science (NFCS) Advisor, Conception Mendoza retired, but under the leadership of Janessa Hartmann, the CalFresh staff provided lessons to over 15,100 youth and adults. We will be requesting that a NFCS advisor position be allocated to our unit in 2018.

2017-18 Shasta County UCCE Staff

Larry Forero - County Director/Advisor, Livestock/Natural Resources
Rick Satomi - Advisor, Forestry/Natural Resources
Nate Caeton - Community Education Specialist II, 4-H Youth Development
Sara Jaimes - Executive Assistant-Confidential, Shasta County
Denice Doll - Typist Clerk III, Shasta County
Janessa Hartmann - Community Education Supervisor II, UC CalFresh Program
Lori Coker - Community Education Specialist II, UC CalFresh Program
Ruby Kaur - Community Education Specialist II, UC CalFresh Program
Kim Stempien - Community Education Specialist II, UC CalFresh Program
Chanelle Vincelli - Community Education Specialist II, UC CalFresh Program
Shawnicce Sellers - Administrative Assistant, UC CalFresh Program

Shasta UC CalFresh Nutrition Education Program

Janessa Hartmann supervises this dynamic USDA grant funded program. The UC CalFresh Nutrition Education program aims to inspire and empower under-served citizens in Shasta county to improve their health and the health of our communities by promoting awareness, education and community change through diverse partnerships that result in healthy eating and active living.

She and her staff deliver research and evidence-based lessons to youth and adults. With a focus around improving the diet and nutrition related skills of CalFresh recipients and their families. Last year, the UC CalFresh Nutrition Education Program provided food, nutrition, garden and health education to:

- 15,500 children in 57 schools
- 970 adults and families in 38 non-profit organizations

This program collaborates with key partners to addresses local nutrition and health problems including the SNAP-Ed Shasta, Growing Local Coalition, Healthy Shasta Movement, Shasta County Growers Association and the cities of Redding, Anderson, among many others.

Program efforts provide essential knowledge and skills that will increase consumption of healthy foods and beverages, increase food resource management, improve food security, and support access to physical activity which will lead to healthy lifestyles. Some activities and events include:

- Redding Farmers Markets Kids Farm Club
- Improvement garden at 13 schools, with new gardens established at 3 of these schools
- Improvements in physical activity for 4 schools including the training of school staff on physical activity curriculum, Walking School Bus, Bike Rodeos, and stencil installation at one playground
- Educational booths and participation in numerous school events including: Parent Club meetings, Fall Festivals, Literacy Day, Health Fairs, Family Reading Nights, Open House and Nutrition Olympics
- Educational booths and participation in numerous local events including: Shasta Damboree, Dr. Seuss Day, STEM conference, Lean-N-Green events, 4th grade Farm City Day and Multicultural Health Fair
Forestry Program

Ricky Satomi has recently joined Cooperative Extension (UCCE) as the Forestry and Natural Resources advisor for Shasta, Trinity and Siskiyou County. Ricky came to UCCE from the UC Berkley Wood Biomass Group looking at biomass utilization opportunities within California. He completed his Master of Forestry from UC Berkeley in 2016 looking at cost efficiency of forest fuel mastication treatments. Prior to that, he worked throughout Northern California with various timber management programs.

Ricky is getting acquainted with Shasta, Trinity and Siskiyou County; meeting local forest landowners and land managers to identify major issues of concern. His program continues to develop and will focus on the most important local forest research, extension and education needs.

In the upcoming year, Ricky hopes to be more involved in research and outreach to offer workshops for forest professional and landowners around general topic areas of:
- New Forest Technologies
- Alternative Silvicultural Approaches
- Forest Fuels Management.

This summer, the UCCE Forestry program worked with local Forestry Professional Jeanne Tomecheski to host the Shasta County session of the Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) with assistance from local natural resource professionals educators. Ricky plans to continue working on the FIT program by supporting the direction, recruitment, curriculum, and funding of the program. The goal of FIT is to provide California’s K-12 teachers with the knowledge, skills and tools to more effectively teach forest ecology and resource management. FIT brings natural resource specialists together with teachers from rural and urban schools to explore the intricate relationships between forest ecosystems including environmental science, physical science, social science, biology, forestry, and history throughout the week. This year more than 40 local resource professionals representing the varied disciplines within forestry volunteered to teach the course. Back at their schools, FIT participants conduct in-service training for colleagues and develop forestry education projects with their students. Despite a tightening budget, 26 teachers participated in the 2017 Shasta County session of FIT with large support from UCCE, the Northern California Society of American Foresters, the US Forest Service and generous private donations.

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

4-H Events: State & Regional Events
- Favorite Foods Day
- Field Day
- W.H.Y. Conference (Regional)

In recent years, the 4-H program 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 fourth 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.

Recognizing that there are many opportunities for programmatic growth, Nate worked this past year with teachers and administrators at Burney Junior Senior High School to bring the 4-H Program into the school. This has resulted in two class sessions that reach approximately 40 students, some of whom would not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in the program. Students in these classes have been able to complete project work ranging from embryology to ornamental horticulture, and have revitalized the school’s defunct farm and greenhouse.

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 the Shasta County Mini Maker Faire, which will return in 2018.

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 at (530) 224-4900.

Shasta County Statistics
- 675 Youth Members
- 140 Adult Volunteer Leaders
- 21 Community Clubs
- 65 projects offered
- Ages 5-19
- 4-H Year: 7/1—6/30
Livestock & Natural Resources

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
- Complete a range and pasture grass photo-identification publication
- Continue the groundwater measurement project in the Fall River Valley
- Ryegrass grazing project
- Work on the development of a water measurement training to help diverters comply with SB-88 measurement and reporting requirements

**Livestock Production**
- Publication of a marketing study in CA Agriculture 2016
- Mineral supplementation strategies for beef cattle
- Development of cow-calf, yearling and finishing cattle cost studies for Northern CA
- Ranch-to-Rail program with UC Davis
- Continuation of an ionophore and mineral consumption 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
- Meetings associated with the Fall River Valley Ground Water Basin with the CA Department of Water Resources

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

UCCE Shasta Master Gardeners Program

The Shasta County Master Gardeners is a joint program of Shasta College and UCCE. Shasta College provides training and organizes projects, while UCCE provides consistent programming across the state and administrative support. 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. There are currently 51 active Master Gardeners and 19 new recruits who completed their training in November 2017.

In 2017, the Shasta County Master Gardeners contributed over 1,547 hours of volunteer community service dedicated to answering gardeners’ questions, increasing environmental awareness and providing educational opportunities for beginning gardeners. Master Gardeners also write a weekly advice column for the Redding Record Searchlight. In addition, they staff a garden help line and a weekly information booth at the Redding Farmer’s Market.

This past year volunteers have focused on time revitalizing the Redding Library green rooftop to showcase water-wise gardening and restoring the Eaton’s house gardens to an 1800 style. Other volunteer run projects include:
- Providing worm bins to schools to teach children about soil
- Composting and recycling with worms
- Volunteering with the McConnell Arboretum
- Staffing information booths at the Whole Earth Festival and county health events
- Perform water-wise garden walks

Local homeowners learn about integrated pest management, soils, composting, irrigation management and water-wise plant selection.

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