

UC Cooperative Extension in San Luis Obispo County



Participants observe oak seedlings at the 8th Oak Symposium. Over 240 people learned about protecting our oak landscapes for their economic value and ecosystem services including habitat, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and viewsheds. Photo: R Larsen

“The [UCCE] Cross-sector Partnership for Food and Nutrition Security... is about solving food insecurity in your community. San Luis Obispo County has made significant strides in this issue area locally and that’s exactly what this program has done.”

- Graham Knaus, CSAC CEO

For every **\$1** invested in agricultural research and extension, there is a return of **\$20** to the community. *Alston et al. (2010)*

Strengthening Local Communities

UCCE supports San Luis Obispo County through applied research and education in agriculture, natural resources, nutrition security, and youth development to support the economic vitality of local agriculture and promote healthy, safe, and resilient communities. Our educators and academics live and work locally, expanding the reach of the University of California to engage all people and communities in identifying practical, science-based solutions to local problems. We partner with public, private, and community-based entities to support healthy communities, food systems, and environments.



4-H Ambassadors present to SLO County Supervisors about 4-H’s impact. Photo: A Torres

Developing a Qualified Workforce

UC ANR’s programs equip youth for college, successful careers, and to be engaged in their communities. We empower workers and growers to use cutting-edge research to advance innovation. UC ANR helps develop a qualified workforce and promotes healthy communities to increase opportunities to ensure a robust and thriving economy.

384
Volunteers

39,450
Volunteer Hours

The Year in Volunteers

Each year, UCCE volunteers donate their time to extend proven solutions. They help make San Luis Obispo County residents and communities more sustainable, protect our natural resources, and empower us to be healthy, successful, and productive.

\$1,472,000
Value of Volunteer Service Hours

4-H Youth Development Program

4-H empowers young people with skills to lead for a lifetime. **San Luis Obispo County 4-H Clubs** participate in countywide events that challenge youth to demonstrate their skills in public speaking, leadership, community service and much more.

In total, 4-H serves:

- **21** community clubs from Parkfield to Nipomo
- **3,085** adult and youth volunteers



4-H youth are **4X** more likely to give back to their community



SLO County 4-H Ambassadors hosted Primary Field Day for younger 4-H members. Photo: C Heath

“Because of 4-H I have improved my public speaking skills and social skills. I have also gained more self-confidence through 4-H. Overall I think that 4-H is a great thing for kids, because of the many life skills and opportunities that are given.” – Gaby, 4-H youth



UCCE leads the CalFresh at Farmers Markets Work Group to increase nutrition security in SLO County. Photo: SLO Promotores

CalFresh Healthy Living, UCCE

CalFresh Healthy Living works in collaboration with local county departments, non-profit organizations, schools and communities to support food and nutrition security through increasing accessibility and affordability of healthy, local foods. These efforts have supported a **325%** increase in CalFresh redemptions at local farmers markets and have reached over **14,000** adults and youth, annually. *This contributes to improved food security, community health and wellness, and agricultural profitability.*



“This Farmers Market Work Group really helped our market to be accepted into the Market Match program. I think without the visibility and partnership that it provided, we would not have been considered for Market Match. Thank you.” – Farmers Market Manager



Presentation on raised bed gardening. Photo: UCCE MG

UC Master Gardeners

124 volunteers
10,345 volunteer hours
\$386,075.40 in Community Services



UC Master Food Preservers

11 volunteers
1,117 volunteer hours
\$ 44,686.44 in Community Services



UCCE Provides High Quality Trainings

“I’m appreciative of the outstanding work you and your team put into creating an interesting, informative, and fun learning experience. ... I’ve been so impressed by your organization and the high quality trainings you provide to our community. Thank you again for all that you did to create a memorable experience for me and the other participants!”

-Anonymous participant in UC Master Gardener Victory Garden Workshop

The UC Master Gardeners (MG) and Master Food Preservers (MFP) are volunteer-led programs providing free and low-cost workshops to the public on science-based home horticulture and food preservation. In addition to workshops and outreach events, volunteers respond to helpline inquiries from the public related to gardening and food safety problems and questions, and their weekly newspaper columns have reached over 42,000 county residents. *The MG program contributes to the protection and conservation of local soil quality, and improved water quality and conservation. The MFP program contributes to improved health and food safety and security.*

UCCE Advisor-led Meetings, Courses, and Workshops

1,127 growers, landowners, and agency partners attended **46** academic-led workshops to increase their knowledge and capacity to:

- prevent wildfire and create fire resilient landscaping,
- prevent invasive weeds and pests,
- improve sustainability, and
- increase capacity to support diverse members of our community

These efforts contribute to increased agricultural efficiency and profitability, ecological sustainability, and improved health for all.

100% Of participants at UCCE Advisor-led workshops plan to implement new practices they learned