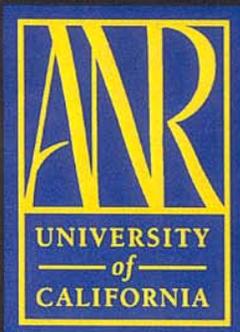


2001-2003



UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA
Cooperative Extension
San Luis Obispo County
Report to the Community

University of California Cooperative Extension San Luis Obispo County

Mission

To serve San Luis Obispo County through the development, sharing, and application of knowledge in agricultural sustainability, natural resource conservation, and youth and family development.

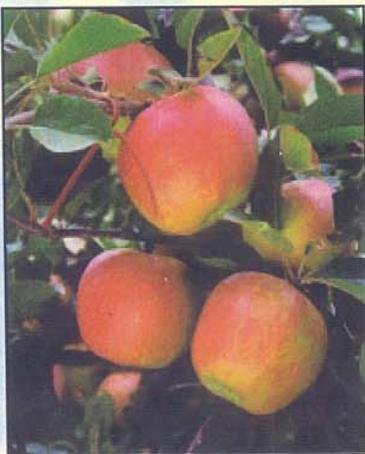
A partnership in research and education

- To strengthen our agricultural industries.
- To conserve our natural resources.
- To promote strong families.



University of California Cooperative Extension

University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Advisors work and live in San Luis Obispo County. We bring research innovations and practical solutions from the University of California (UC) to address issues facing San Luis Obispo County residents. You will find us working with farmers and ranchers to solve pest problems, reduce chemical use, and increase productivity. We cooperate with landowners and regulators to improve water quality and conserve San Luis Obispo County's natural resources. We provide youth with opportunities in leadership, citizenship, and life skills development. We work with consumers as well as health and family service professionals to promote the nutritional health and well-being of our families.



Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

The Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) is the umbrella organization for Cooperative Extension. ANR is a statewide network of University of California researchers and educators dedicated to creating, developing, and extending knowledge. ANR also manages the Agricultural Experiment Stations throughout California and the Natural Reserve System which includes the Kenneth S. Norris Rancho Marino Reserve in Cambria.

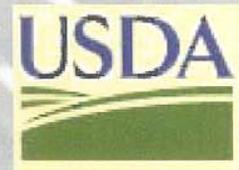
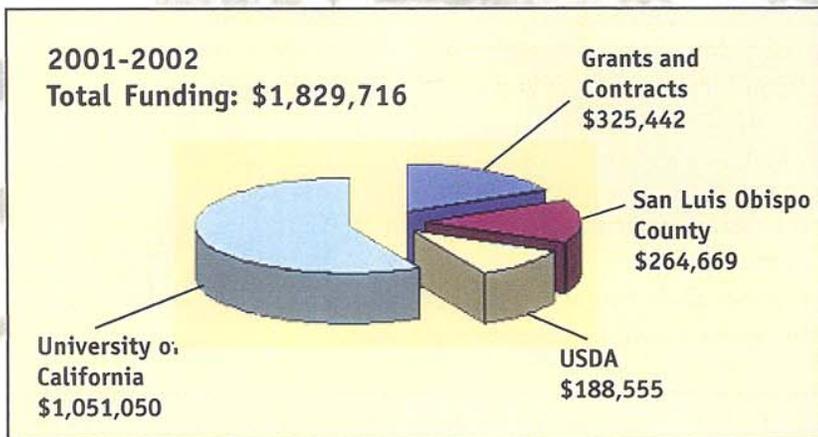
Partnerships and Budget



UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA
**Agriculture &
Natural Resources**



The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) is a partnership between the University of California (UC), the County of San Luis Obispo, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Each partner plays a key role in providing funding and support for Cooperative Extension (CE) programs in San Luis Obispo County.



The University of California provides academic and program support staff to plan and conduct programs for county residents. The USDA provides program support including federal postage and publications. San Luis Obispo County provides clerical and support personnel, office space, program supplies, staff travel and administrative support.

The partnership of federal, state, and county government supports the foundation upon which Cooperative Extension is able to develop research and educational programs to benefit county residents. Additional funding, from grants and contracts, allows for program offerings that target specific needs of San Luis Obispo County.

Horticulture and Farm Water Quality

Advisor Mary Bianchi

The Horticulture Program serves the expanding tree fruit industry of San Luis Obispo County. Olives, citrus, and avocados are expanding agricultural commodities, along with well established walnut and apple industries. The program focuses on integrated disease and insect pest management, including biological controls, water and nutrient management, variety and rootstock selection, and production economics.



The Red Gum Eucalyptus has been under attack by the Lerp Psyllid pest. In cooperation with Cal Poly, the Horticulture Program is investigating the use and establishment of beneficial insects to control this pest.

The Farm Water Quality Short Course educates irrigated-agriculture producers to:

- Develop management plans to protect water quality.
- Assess current sources of non-point pollution, including sediments, pesticides, nutrients, and salinity.
- Organize water quality efforts with other growers within watershed groups.

Four watershed groups, consisting of 45 growers in SLO County, have completed the course.



Specialty Crops and Small Farms

Advisor Mark Gaskell

The Small Farm Program provides production and marketing information to small-scale, family farms by:

- Providing research and education on farming and production of alternative new crops, such as lychees, longans, edamame soybeans, and sweet onions.

- Encouraging production of early-season blueberries that can be produced at an economically profitable time.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of organic composts for fruit and vegetable production.

Vegetable Crops

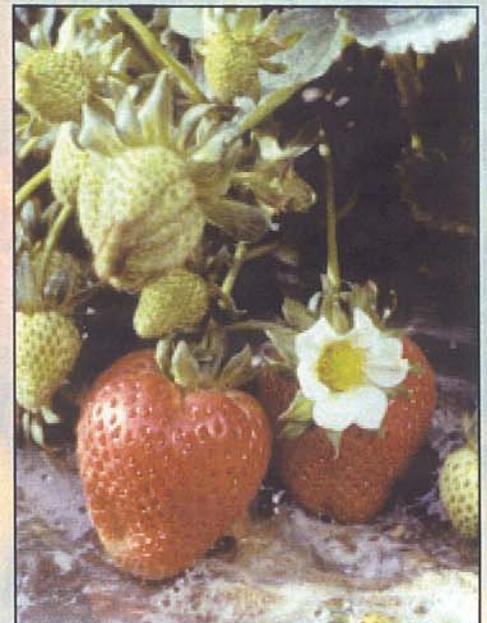
Advisor Frank Laemmlen

The Vegetable Crops Program works with the commercial vegetable industry on pest and disease prevention for locally grown vegetables.



Work focuses on:

- Developing effective management strategies for controlling pests and diseases that threaten the viability of vegetable and strawberry production.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of new plant protection products.



Viticulture

Advisor Mark Battany

The Viticulture Program serves the grape industry, San Luis Obispo County's highest value crop, by:

- Working with growers on issues related to soil management, fertilizing, irrigation, vine management, insect pests, and vine diseases.
- Increasing water management efficiency by

researching the use of inexpensive devices to estimate vineyard water usage.

- Educating growers and workers to prevent the spread of the Vine Mealybug, a new insect pest with the potential to cause long-term damage to California vineyards.

Integrated Pest Management

Advisor Phil Phillips

The Integrated Pest Management Program assists growers in developing environmentally sensitive, yet economically sustainable pest management strategies. Research pursues methods of managing destructive pests with reduced or no chemical inputs.

Newer pest control techniques include:

- Releasing biological control agents.
- Using mating disruption technology.
- Using protective soil and plant covers.
- Adjusting irrigation and fertilizer practices.
- Using more resistant crop varieties.

Recent program successes include:

- The introduction and use of disease monitoring and predicting systems. This allows for better application timing and reduced plant protection product use.
- On site disease and pest diagnosis, which saves growers time and money through prompt treatment and corrective measures.

Livestock

Advisor Wayne Jensen

The Livestock Program focuses on meeting the public demands for quality and safety of beef products. To ensure the efficient production of safe, high-quality beef, Cooperative Extension worked with the local cattle industry to implement the Beef Cow-Calf Quality Assurance Program. This program establishes the highest quality and safety standards for beef production and educates producers on how to meet these standards in their local operations.

A current project investigates successful methods to direct cattle away from riparian areas in order to maintain and improve water quality on rangelands.

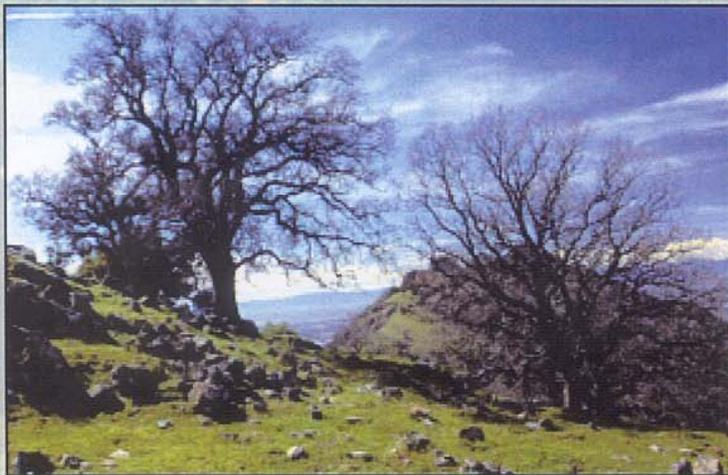
Oak Woodlands

Specialist Bill Tietje

The goal of the Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program is to ensure a viable agricultural industry while protecting the native plant and animal habitats of oak woodlands.

Current Programs

The *Prescribed Burning Project* monitors the effects of control burns on oak regeneration and wildlife.

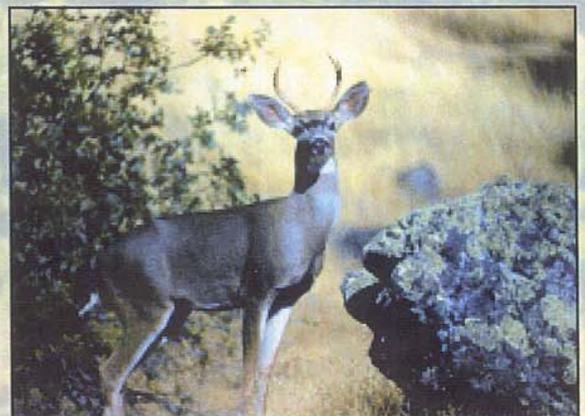


FY 01-02, more than 50% of workshop participants implemented restoration practices.

The *Vineyard Development Study* examines methods for wildlife habitat enhancement in vineyards.

The *Sudden Oak Death Study* (SOD) investigates the potential effects on plant and animal communities of local woodlands, should the disease spread to San Luis Obispo County.

SOD Workshops inform elected officials and the general public about the potential effects of SOD on natural resources, aesthetics, and economics.



Natural Resources and Watershed

Advisor Royce Larsen

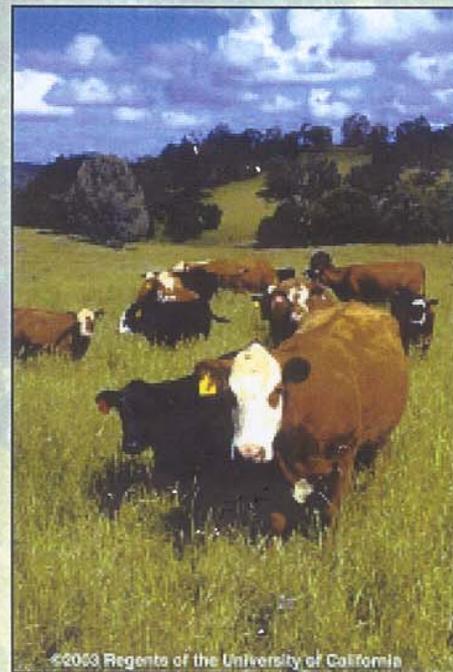
90% of *Roads Workshop* participants reported making improvements on their ranches to sustain water quality.

The Natural Resources/Watershed Program serves owners and managers of over one million acres of native pasture and forestlands, known as rangelands, in San Luis Obispo County.

Current Programs

Ranch Water Quality Short Courses provide information for voluntary development and implementation of *Ranch Water Quality Plans* by rangeland owners. Participants develop plans to monitor water quality and non-point source water pollution, as well as implement practices to improve water quality.

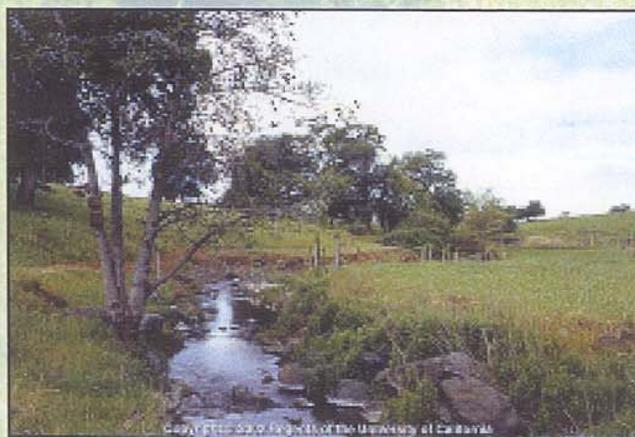
The *Roads Workshops* provide practical information for maintaining ranch roads to improve water quality and decrease maintenance costs.



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Owners and managers of 253,956 acres of rangeland completed the Ranch Water Quality Short Course.

The *Forage Productivity Study* measures average yearly forage yield to assist ranchers in obtaining supplemental assistance for cattle feed during drought.



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The *Vineyard Development Study* investigates the affects on water quality where rangeland is converted to vineyards.

On-going projects are researching effective and environmentally sensitive weed control and conducting seeding trials to maintain forage quality on rangeland.

UCCE Master Gardeners

Advisor Mary Bianchi

UCCE Master Gardeners play an instrumental role in educating the citizens of San Luis Obispo County on proper use of pesticides and fertilizers in home gardens, to maintain the water quality of local creeks and beaches. Junior Master Gardeners assist schools in developing and maintaining educational gardening projects.

During 2001-2003, Master Gardeners assisted nearly 2,000 people through:

- 104 articles in local newspapers.
- Master Gardener booths at farmer's markets.
- Help Line calls. This is a free service to answer home gardening questions. Call (805) 781-5939 Monday and Thursday, 1-5 p.m. Or call (805) 237-3100 Wednesday, 8 a.m.-12 noon.



Master Gardeners provided over 3,000 hours of educational contacts, valued at \$45,000 to SLO County.

Marine Science

Advisor Deborah McArdle

The Marine Science Program is designed to promote wise management, conservation, and utilization of living marine resources. This has been accomplished by:

- Documenting historical trends of marine resource utilization by Morro Bay fishermen.
- Providing science-based information to assist in the development of fishery management plans for Morro Bay.
- Publications assisting decision makers in understanding the concepts and rationales for developing fishery management strategies, such as marine protected areas.

4-H Youth Development

Advisor Richard Enfield



SLO County has the fourth largest 4-H Club Program in California.

The 4-H Youth Development Program is dedicated to leadership, community service, and life skill development for youth 5-19 years of age. Approximately 1,500 youth participate in the 4-H Program each year through 35 local clubs.

One of the program's greatest strengths is the involvement of caring adults. Nearly 375 San Luis Obispo County adult volunteer leaders engage youth in learning experiences designed to contribute to positive development.

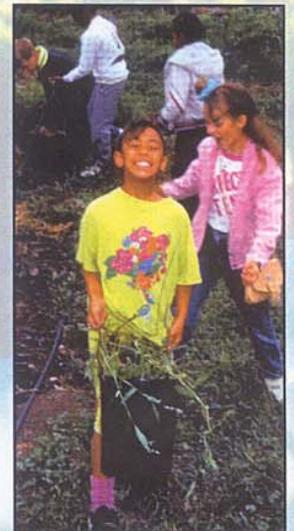


The 4-H Youth Development Program co-founded the Asset Development Network in San Luis Obispo County. This organization helps youth develop skills that contribute to success in school, family, and the community. Today 4-H supports the network by coordinating conferences for adults and youth. In addition, 4-H serves on the speakers' bureau and the steering committee.



SLO Scientists is a family program where child/adult teams explore science through hands-on activities related to their environment.

4-H Leaders contributed 71,500 hours of volunteer service to SLO County youth during FY 01-03, valued at an estimated \$1,072,500.



Nutrition, Family and Consumer Science

Advisor Shirley Peterson

The Nutrition, Family, & Consumer Sciences Program provides educational programs and resources targeted to health and family-service professionals, teachers, child-care providers, and consumers.

Program Successes

The Youth Nutrition Education Program is available free to educators working in schools where 50% or more of the children participate in the USDA Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program. More than 2,000 children participate yearly.

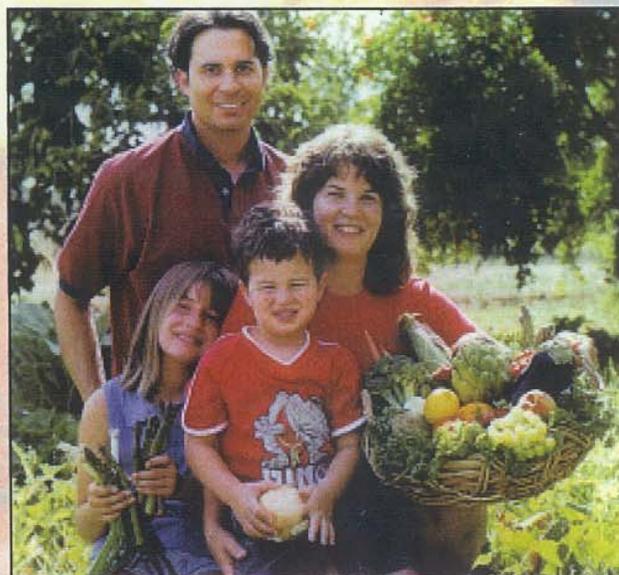
Three hundred local professionals participate in conferences and workshops annually. During FY 01-02, 100% of participants indicated they had gained useful information and 89% indicated they had made positive behavior changes based on information presented in the programs.

Trained Food Safety and Preservation Educators answer food safety questions.

Call 805-781-5940 to locate a Food Safety and Preservation Educator near you.

Money Talks—Should I Be Listening? is a program designed to help teens understand the importance of long-term savings.

Program materials are available at www.moneytalks.ucr.edu.



The Children and Family Commission provided funding support for:

The Lunch Box—practical information for parents in preparing nutritious and safe lunches for young children, involving more than 1,500 San Luis Obispo parents.

Power of Play—an educational play program, helped more than 400 parents assist their preschool children in developing school readiness skills.

Cooperative Extension Advisors Serving San Luis Obispo County

San Luis Obispo

Mark Battany, Viticulture/Soils Advisor

Mary Bianchi, Horticulture/Water Advisor

Richard Enfield, 4-H Youth Development Advisor

Shirley Peterson, County Director/Nutrition, Family & Consumer Sciences Advisor

Bill Tietje, Central Coast Natural Resource Specialist

Paso Robles

Royce Larsen, Watershed/Natural Resource Advisor

Santa Maria

Mark Gaskell, Specialty Crops/Small Farms Advisor

Wayne Jensen, Livestock Advisor

Frank Laemmlen, Vegetable Crops Advisor

Santa Barbara

Deborah McArdle, Marine Science Advisor

Ventura

Phil Phillips, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisor

Local Cooperative Extension Offices

2156 Sierra Way, Suite C
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-4556
805-781-5940

1734 Paso Robles Street
Paso Robles, CA 93446
805-237-3100

For local program information visit <http://cesanluisobispo.ucdavis.edu>

Information about Cooperative Extension statewide is available at www.ucanr.org

Spanish language information is available at www.espanol.ucanr.org

Publications and resources are available at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/>



UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA
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