



January 30, 2012

Cathy Fisher, Agricultural Commissioner
263 Camino del Remedio
Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1335

Hi Cathy:

I have attached the latest **Santa Barbara County UC Cooperative Extension Programs Progress Report (October-December 2011)** to this correspondence. As the report details, UCCE Advisors and staff were very active in all of our program areas in the county. Below, I have bulleted a few notable activities in the report. These activities are also highlighted in the first section of the report.

NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REPORT

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Surendra Dara (Strawberry and Vegetable Crops Advisor) held his annual strawberry production and pest management meeting in Santa Maria on December 9, which was well appreciated by the strawberry community. Growers, PCAs, researchers, and various people associated with the agriculture industry were among the 115 participants who attended the meeting. Surendra gave a talk on his strawberry fungicide and pesticide trials at this meeting.

Mark Gaskell (Specialty Crops Farm Advisor) has secured several new research grants for small fruit crops in Santa Barbara County:

- He has been included on a large USDA Organic Program 4-year grant for organic strawberry management trials in the Santa Maria area (other sites in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties).
- He is the Co-PI on a new Specialty Crop Block Grant program to evaluate irrigation management regimes and the effects on blackberry and blueberry yield and quality.
- He is a participant on a grant for blackberry management from Hansen Trust – the results will benefit SB County small fruit growers.

Between October and December 31, 2011, 139 educators in SMBSD committed classroom time to nutrition education providing comprehensive nutrition lessons to more than 4500 SMBSD students. On average, educators enrolled in UC CalFresh NEP extend an average of 32 hours of nutrition education per school year to their students.

From October 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, Master Gardeners volunteered 587 hours to community education on sustainable gardening. Using the estimate of \$23.29 (http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time) for volunteer hours, this represents \$13,671 in support of education that includes water conservation, composting, and reduced urban pesticide use.

Sherry Mills organized a training event in Santa Maria for 4-H volunteers on “Exploring Your Environment,” a new piece of the National 4-H Curriculum. Drs. Cynthia Barnett and Keith Nathaniel, 4-H Youth Development Advisors for San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties, respectively, provided the training. Staff, Adult 4-H Leaders and Jr./Teen Leaders from Santa Barbara County 4-H Clubs, the Vandenberg AFB Youth Center’s 4-H Military Program, and SLO County 4-H Clubs attended the event. Funding was provided by Toyota.

I am sure that you will agree that the quarterly progress report demonstrates that the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) researchers and educators working in Santa Barbara County are dedicated to the creation, development and application of knowledge in agricultural, natural and human resources for the residents of the county. As the UCCE County Director, I am very proud of the applied research and extension education activities that took place in SB County during the past quarter.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss any component of the progress report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Enfield".

Richard P. Enfield
County Director & 4-H Youth Development Advisor

Santa Barbara County UC Cooperative Extension Programs Progress Report



Ever-Bloom is a 15-acre greenhouse facility in Carpinteria with one of the largest selection of gerberas in the United States. Nursery owner Ed Van Wingerden has been a cooperator on University of California projects to develop and improve IPM programs that emphasize the use of biological control; the nursery has also been a University of California demonstration site on water recycling and other sustainable practices.



Submitted by:
Richard P. Enfield,
County Director & 4-H YD Advisor,
Santa Barbara County
January 31, 2012

ADMINISTRATION

Note: This progress report covers the period from October 2011 – December 2011.

County Director Richard Enfield kept in contact with SB Ag Agricultural Commissioner Cathy Fisher throughout the quarter.

A representative from UCCE attended all the Agricultural Advisory Committee and Farm Bureau meetings during the quarter.

Rangeland and Watershed Advisor Dr. Royce Larsen serves on the Santa Barbara Agricultural Preserve Committee, and he attended all the meetings during the quarter.

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PLANT SCIENCES/HORTICULTURE
Advisors Mark Battany, Mary Bianchi, Dr. Surendra Dara,
Dr. Ben Faber, Dr. Mark Gaskell, and Julie Newman

This program specializes in the science and art of growing fruits, vegetables, flowers, and ornamental plants. Advisors conduct local field research to test new crops and varieties that are best adapted to local soil and water conditions, implement improvements in cultural practices and pest control methods, and offer information that optimizes production, conserves natural resources, and protects the environment.

Surendra Dara - Strawberry and Vegetable Crops

- Surendra gave a talk on thrips management in lettuce based on his research conducted in Lompoc, and at an entomology extension meeting in Salinas, gave a talk on the invasive pest, European pepper moth. This meeting was cosponsored by UCCE and the California Association of Pest Control Advisers (CAPCA).
- Surendra held his annual strawberry production and pest management meeting in Santa Maria on December 9, which was well appreciated by the strawberry community. Growers, PCAs, researchers, and various people associated with the agriculture industry were among the 115 participants who attended the meeting. Surendra gave a talk on his strawberry fungicide and pesticide trials at this meeting.
- Surendra wrote an article for the October issue of CAPCA Adviser magazine about his research on managing strawberry pests with environmentally safe methods, which increased the awareness of microbial control as evident by some growers adapting these techniques.
- Surendra also wrote four blog articles on brown marmorated stink bug, spotted snake millipedes in zucchini, carpet beetles, fruit fly and fungus gnat larvae damaging strawberry fruit. A couple of these articles were featured in Growing Produce and Western Farm Press. Surendra co-authored an article on the European pepper moth that was submitted to California Agriculture.
- Surendra regularly visited fields to address disease and pest issues and provide timely feedback to the growers. He also responded to phone calls, identified insect specimens and provided information to growers and homeowners on pest issues.

Ben Faber - Soils and water, avocados and minor subtropicals

- Ben Faber and Horticulture Advisor Mary Bianchi were successful at obtaining a 3-year grant from the California Avocado Commission to study the different growth stages in avocado and document them with a soon to be on-line imagery site so that growers will better know when to time operations such as irrigation, crop spray and fertilization. This will be made available to all California avocado growers but will be beta tested in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.
- Ben continued three field trials:
 - 1) girdling tree branches to reduce seediness of lemon fruit
 - 2) evaluation of 5 new rootstocks in 'Pixie' mandarin production
 - 3) evaluation of 5 new rootstocks on 'Eureka' lemon production
- Ben regularly visits fields to address issues and provide timely feedback to the growers. From October - December, he made 13 farm visits in SB County.
- Ben spoke at the Crop Protection Services meeting in Santa Maria November 30.
- In November, Ben posted *A Frost Primer* on the SB UCCE Website, which includes articles on:
 - Protecting Subtropical Fruit Trees from Frost
 - Citrograph Frost Issue 2011
 - Recognizing freeze damaged citrus
 - Rehabilitation of freeze damaged citrus
 - Recognizing freeze damage in avocados
 - Frost protection for avocados
 - Rehabilitation of freeze damaged avocados

Mark Gaskell – Specialty crops, small fruit crops, vegetables, sustainable agriculture, small farms

- Specialty Crops Farm Advisor Mark Gaskell has secured several new research grants for small fruit crops in Santa Barbara County:
 - He has been included on a large USDA Organic Program 4-year grant for organic strawberry management trials in the Santa Maria area (other sites in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties).
 - He is the Co-PI on a new Specialty Crop Block Grant program to evaluate irrigation management regimes and the effects on blackberry and blueberry yield and quality.
 - He is a participant on a grant for blackberry management from Hansen Trust – the results will benefit SB County small fruit growers.
- In 2001, farmer/cooperator Jay Ruskey of Good Land Organics and Farm Advisor Mark Gaskell began a trial to see how well coffee plants would grow in the area's coastal climate. The critical aspects of growing and processing the crop were adjusted over the first few seasons and after harvesting and processing the beans, coffee experts gave positive reviews of the coffee. Jay began selling the coffee at farmers markets at around Santa Barbara and the coffee is now sought after by buyers seeking locally grown, organic coffee. The growing operation continued to expand with about a dozen varieties of beans under evaluation and

more than 1,500 plants now being grown in the Santa Barbara area. Other growers are now in-line to plant coffee seedlings at several sites from Goleta to Carpinteria and Gaskell reports there is a new variety trial with 700 trees newly planted on a farm in Carpinteria.

Julie Newman - Floriculture and Nursery Production

- Advisor Julie Newman continued to participate in monthly meetings as chair of the University of California Nursery and Floriculture Alliance (UCNFA) educational committee to plan statewide educational events for flower and nursery growers that are open to growers in Santa Barbara County. She is working on two local meetings for 2012, which will include a meeting for Ag waiver credit in Santa Barbara County. Julie is planning this meeting in coordination with the Santa Barbara Flower and Nursery Growers Association.
- Julie is the lead author of a peer-reviewed chapter on pesticide mitigation strategies used in commercial nurseries. The book, *Pesticide Mitigation Strategies for Surface Water Quality*, was published in December by the American Chemical Society. The book is posted online at <http://pubs.acs.org/isbn/9780841226562>.
- Julie wrote an article on managing pesticide resistance that was published in October in a national trade magazine, *Greenhouse Management*. This article can be viewed at <http://gmpro.texterity.com/greenhousemanagement/201110#pg84>.
- As co-chair for the floriculture and nursery session of the annual conference for the California Weed Science Society, to be held in January 2012 in Santa Barbara, Julie continued to correspond with speakers that she invited for the ornamentals session. The audience of this conference will be pest control advisors, scientists, educators, and growers primarily from Santa Barbara and neighboring counties.
- During the month of December, Julie wrote a regional report for Ventura/Santa Barbara counties on invasive plant management in nurseries for the winter 2012 edition of UCNFA News, a statewide university newsletter. The feature topic of this issue is weed management. She solicited feature articles for this edition from UC researchers who are also presenting information for the annual conference for the California Weed Science Society in January in Santa Barbara. In addition, her regional report article for Ventura/Santa Barbara counties for the fall 2011 edition on *Mitigating Pesticide Runoff While Managing Invasive Pests* was published and posted online on our county website in mid-October. It can be viewed at [http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/newsletters/UCNFA News formerly CORF News40203.pdf](http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/newsletters/UCNFA_News_formerly_CORF_News40203.pdf).
- Julie is the technical editor for *Container Nursery Production and Business Management Manual*, a book containing 20 chapters, which is undergoing ANR peer review. She is the lead author of a chapter on controlling nursery runoff and recycling water, nutrients, and waste which required significant revisions for publication following peer review. This manual will serve as a valuable reference for anyone involved in California's nursery industry, including growers in Santa Barbara County.

Advisor Mark Battany - Viticulture & Soils

- **Comprehensive article on the usefulness of temperature inversion data**

In the spring of 2011 Advisor Mark Battany conducted intensive measurements of temperature inversions at single vineyards in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County. He presented this information to his clientele with a comprehensive *Grape Notes* newsletter article, which generated significant positive feedback from clientele for its innovation and usefulness in describing the severe 2011 frosts and the temperature inversion conditions associated with these frost events. Importantly, this article showed how useful such data was for assessing frost conditions. This work was particularly innovative in that it developed and presented, very possibly for the first time, a simple yet information-rich graphical method for depicting the crop level temperature, the temperature inversion strength, and the predicted temperature resulting from wind machine operation, throughout the entire frost night. This easy-to-grasp graphical presentation of this complex data will be used to summarize the measurements that will be taking with the three-year regional study of temperature inversions described below.

- **Scouted field locations for 2012 temperature inversion conditions study, and 2012 wind machine trials**

Following Mark's successful award of a Specialty Crops Block Grant, he began scouting optimum locations for taking measurements of the springtime temperature inversion conditions throughout the vineyard areas of Santa Barbara County. This three-year project will provide critical information for determining the suitability of using wind machines for frost protection, potentially as a replacement for frost sprinklers. The goal is to place nearly 20 meteorological towers at vineyard locations representative of the diverse climates of the county's growing regions. Mark will also be leading similar work in San Luis Obispo County, and cooperating with colleagues in Sonoma County to carry out the project in those regions simultaneously.

- Mark also began identifying cooperator locations for upcoming trials in which he will be assessing the performance of different types of wind machines for frost protection. This large-scale trial will continue the similar work he was carrying out in 2010 and 2011, which resulted in a journal article that successfully passed the first peer-review process during this reporting period.

- **Initiated historical temperature evaluation project**

Mark continued with his comprehensive evaluation of the historical 60-year temperature trends for all grape regions in the Northern and Central parts of the state. The recent two colder-than-average growing seasons have had growers in the state wondering about the long-term temperature trends. This work shows that the trend overall is that substantially increased warming is occurring, but that the rate of warming is highly variable throughout the studied region. It is also showing that the pattern of warming is highly variable; in some areas the warming is occurring through increased minimum temperatures, while in others through increased maximum temperatures, or both. These results will be presented to clientele in a spring 2012 *Grape Notes* newsletter.

UC CALFRESH NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM (UC CalFresh)
Formerly Youth Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program (Youth FSNEP)
Advisor Richard Enfield, Program Representative III Kimberlee Hampton, Program
Representative II Lisa Paniagua & Program Representative I Andrea Keisler

The University of California's CalFresh Nutrition Education Program (UC CalFresh) is funded by the USDA, administered by the University of California at Davis and delivered locally by the University of California Cooperative Extension of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. The program provides educators at qualifying schools with research-based nutrition education curriculum, high-quality nutrition education training, and local on-going support. Recognizing that healthy eaters are better learners, the goal of the program is to facilitate healthy changes to students' and families' eating behaviors utilizing the USDA MyPyramid as a guidance tool. In addition, UC CalFresh has assisted educators in the transition of USDA ChooseMyPlate.gov which is a focus on increasing vegetable and fruit consumption, choosing low-fat/low-sodium foods, and balancing caloric intake by an awareness of portion size.

UC CalFresh provides evidenced-based nutrition education to CalFresh recipients and other low-income individuals and families in collaboration with local partners. It acts as a vital bridge between the learning and knowledge of the UC system and our community, tailoring the latest science, curriculum and information to the needs, culture and language of low-income communities. The goal is to help these community members make better nutrition decisions, maximize limited food budgets and utilize the counties' unique opportunities.

In Santa Barbara County, 53.3% of adults are overweight or obese, 39.5% of adults live in food insecure households, 14% of children are living in poverty, 11.2% of children are overweight for age, and 27,194 students qualify for free and reduced meals.

- UC CalFresh NEP's Santa Barbara programming efforts are concentrated in the Santa Maria Bonita School District (SMBSD) in Santa Maria. Currently, 139 educators representing 13 of the district's schools are enrolled in the program; 1 of the school sites participates in adult nutrition education using Eating Smart Being Active curriculum. SMBSD and UC CalFresh has a memorandum of understanding through 2014 and are looking forward to continuing to participate in a collaborative partnership with UC acting as a member of SMBSD's professional learning community.
- UC Cal Fresh NEP is a collaborator in Santa Maria Thrive! providing monthly family centered nutrition education to 200 families. UC CalFresh has been written into the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant application to provide family centered nutrition education in an after school setting including 3 of the SMBSD schools. In addition to district support, administrative support is evident at each school site in SMBSD.
- UC CalFresh NEP provides interested educators with free research-based, age-appropriate nutrition curricula that are tied to both California's health content standards and core content standards. The cornerstone of the youth program is its unique No Prep Nutrition Education Kits which allow educators to implement quality nutrition education in their classrooms with no preparation or cost. Between October and December 2011, 139 educators in SMBSD

committed classroom time to nutrition education providing comprehensive nutrition lessons to more than 4500 SMBSD students. On average, educators enrolled in UC CalFresh NEP extend an average of 32 hours of nutrition education per school year to their students.

MASTER GARDENERS

Advisor Mary Bianchi & Program Representative II Fiona Brennan

UCCE Master Gardeners (MGs), through their volunteer activities, provide the primary outreach and extension method for improving horticulture and science literacy for homeowners and back yard gardeners. They provide research based information for home horticulture, pest identification, landscape management, and other environmental and natural resource information. They interact directly with homeowners and back yard gardeners to provide information on plant selection, alternatives to pesticides, water conservation, and environmentally sound solutions for pest problems.

MG Program goals are to support healthy people and communities, healthy food systems, and healthy environments in Santa Barbara Counties through the extension of research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices.

There are 83 Master Gardeners in the Santa Barbara County Program as of December, 2011.

Important administrative activities for the Master Gardener Program in Santa Barbara County from October through December 2011 included:

- Holding an Open House in November for community members interested in participating in the Master Gardener Program
- Completing the recruitment drive for a new training class for Master Gardeners in 2012. There are currently 22 new MG trainees who will be beginning the new training program in February 2012.

Summary of Accomplishments:

Important outreach and education activities for the Master Gardener Program in Santa Barbara County from October through December 2011 resulted in 367 educational contacts through volunteer events, including:

- From October 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, Master Gardeners volunteered 587 hours to community education on sustainable gardening. Using the estimate of \$23.29 http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time) for volunteer hours, this represents **\$13,671** in support of education that includes water conservation, composting, and reduced urban pesticide use.
- Master Gardeners provide information on sustainable landscape practices through a telephone helpline for a total of 9 hours.
- Master Gardeners staff information tables twice each month at the Santa Barbara Farmers' Market.
- Master Gardeners participated with information tables at the Santa Barbara Botani Garden Community Days and Plant Sales, through a bi-monthly presence at the UCCE Butterfly Garden at Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden, and events and efforts at the Santa Barbara

Public Golf Course Butterfly Garden and the Santa Barbara Mission's Huerta Garden Venue, and have been developing their public website and a web blog for advertising workdays to increase public contacts.

- Master Gardeners developed and delivered workshops on "All About Your Winter Veggies, Composting and Herb Gardens?" and a Winter Deciduous Garden Clinic.

Master Gardeners support school gardens through programs at local schools and public education on gardening with their efforts at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, the La Huerta Project at the Santa Barbara Mission, and the Sedgwick Reserve. Master Gardeners are currently working with the Douglas Family Preserve to develop programs on native plants and restoration.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Advisor Richard Enfield and Program Representative III Sherry Mills
Office Assistant Rosemarie Aigner, Program Representative II Hannah Grossman and
Program Representative II Brian Sikich

4-H is a positive youth development organization that empowers young people to reach their full potential. A vast community of more than 6 million youth and adults working together for positive change, 4-H enables America's youth to emerge as leaders through hands-on learning, research-based 4-H youth programs and adult mentorship, in order to give back to their local communities. 4-H is the youth development program of our nation's Cooperative Extension System. The 4-H Youth Development Program is brought to SB County by the University of California, Agriculture & Natural Resources.

Major Events and Accomplishments
October 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011

October

- 1 SB County 4-H Management Board Meeting, Los Alamos
- 4 The County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution Proclaiming October 2-8, 2011 as "National 4-H Week" in Santa Barbara County
- 15/16 4-H Agua Pura Booth at the California Lemon Festival, Goleta
- 23 SB County 4-H Club Treasurers Training & Book Review, Los Alamos
- 24 SB County 4-H Management Board Meeting, Los Alamos

November

- 3 4-H Agua Pura Booth at the After Hours at the Sea Center event, Santa Barbara
- 5 SB County 4-H Beef Play Day, New Cuyama
- 11-13 California 4-H State Leaders' Forum, Pacific Grove
- 19 4-H Exploring Your Environment Project Leader Training, Santa Maria
- 28 SB County 4-H Program Development Board Meeting, Santa Maria

December

- 10 SB County-wide Hi 4-H Program Holiday Hoedown, Los Alamos
- 17 SB County 4-H Small Animal Science Event, Santa Barbara

- The new SB County 4-H Youth Development Program Management Board and the new 4-H Program Development Board began meeting under the guidance of Richard Enfield and Sherry Mills. Adults and teens were recruited to join various program development committees chaired by 4-H Key Leaders. Event and activities committees began planning a Hi 4-H Program, a Small Animal Science Event, a County 4-H Leaders' Forum, County 4-H Presentation Day, the LEaD Conference for teens, and 4-H Exhibit Day.
- The County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution Proclaiming October 2-8, 2011 as "National 4-H Week" in Santa Barbara County.
- Sherry Mills, Hannah Grossman, Rosemarie Aigner and a team of adult and youth volunteers organized and ran a 4-H booth at the California Lemon Festival in Goleta. During the two-day event 690 people visited the booth to take part in a 4-H Agua Pura watershed education activity and to learn about the 4-H Youth Development Program.
- Club treasurers and their adult advisors received training on 4-H financial policies and had their Treasurer's Books reviewed by Sherry Mills and the Management Board Treasurer.
- The 7th Annual SB County 4-H Beef Play Day was held at The Spanish Ranch in New Cuyama. Educational sessions encompassed ethics, show ring etiquette, auctioneering, buyer letter writing, rope halter making, and more. Sponsors included the Santa Barbara County Cattlewomen and Farm Supply. Brian Sikich produced a slide show of the event for the Santa Barbara County 4-H Website: <http://www.sb4h.org/>.
- A delegation of eight adults, including Sherry, Hannah, Brian and Rosemarie represented Santa Barbara County 4-H at the California 4-H State Leaders' Forum at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove. After the conference the group began planning a similar event for local adult and teen leaders at Righetti HS in Santa Maria on Jan 21, 2012.
- Sherry Mills organized a training event in Santa Maria for 4-H volunteers on "Exploring Your Environment," a new piece of the National 4-H Curriculum. Drs. Cynthia Barnett and Keith Nathaniel, 4-H Youth Development Advisors for San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties, respectively, provided the training. Staff, Adult 4-H Leaders and Jr./Teen Leaders from Santa Barbara County 4-H Clubs, the Vandenberg AFB Youth Center's 4-H Military Program, and SLO County 4-H Clubs attended the event. Funding was provided by Toyota.
- Hannah Grossman presented the 4-H Agua Pura program at the After Hours at the Sea Center event for teachers and representatives of environmental education organizations held at the Ty Warner Sea Center in Santa Barbara.
- Brian Sikich helped the Youth Leadership Program Development Committee with planning and promoting the new Countywide Hi 4-H Program, a Holiday Hoedown, and the upcoming LEaD Conference for teens scheduled for March 9-11, 2012. The Small Animal Science Program Development Committee put on a 4-H Small Animal Science Event at Earl Warren Showgrounds in Santa Barbara. Youth participated in rabbit, chicken, turkey and cavy showmanship competition. The event also included photo, poster, costume and craft categories for youth enrolled in rabbit, chicken, turkey, cavy and dog projects.