



Colusa County
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Colusa, CA 95932
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University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Cooperative Extension

November 30, 2023

Dear Friends of Cooperative Extension in Colusa County:

This is our annual fundraising letter. While we are strongly supported by Colusa County (building rental, staff, vehicles, gas, and more), additional funds help us cover unexpected expenses or support new ideas. Your gift will be used only to support educational and research activities in Colusa County. Thank you for considering this request in such a challenging year for many.

Here are some of the programs and activities that University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) brought to Colusa County in 2023.

- 4-H promoted healthy living, civic engagement, and science literacy projects to 487 youth in five 4-H Clubs with the help of 79 dedicated adult volunteers.
- Provided in-school science and after school cooking education to youth in Colusa County schools.
- Established rice diseases management trials testing induced resistance products (bio stimulants) as a complement to conventional fungicides.
- Monitored armyworm moth populations to aid growers in determining the best time to scout for worms in the field.
- Continued work to sustain the Nickels Soil Lab in Arbuckle and maintain almond, walnut, and olive trials at Nickels including: 1) almond tree spacing for optimal production, 2) new walnut rootstock trial, self-fertile vs traditional almond production and recycled (chipped) almond orchard trial.
- Organized 12 educational events delivering sustainable gardening and water efficiency information to 320 people. 120 families received fresh vegetables from the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden. Delivered gardening information through our podcast, newsletter, videos, and local newspaper making 87,300 impressions in 2023.
- Continuing serving fifty-four teachers in person in Colusa County who were enrolled in the CFHL, UC nutrition education program. Teachers delivered nutrition, garden, and physical activity lessons to 1400 students. Grand Island Elementary, Arbuckle Elementary, and Williams Upper and Lower Elementary schools were the campuses with active participation in UCCE nutrition programs.
- Field crop production research included integrating livestock and grazing into annual cropping systems; the impact of almond shell application to alfalfa fields on soil moisture, yields, weeds, and soil; and increasing nitrogen use efficiency in wheat. Extension materials on cover crop management for the region are being developed.
- A search for a new Rice Advisor for Colusa and Yolo Counties (based in Colusa) concluded with an excellent candidate accepting the position with a start date of January 2, 2024.

New this Year: Please let us know about local programs/ideas you would like to see our office work on in 2024. You can call me directly (530.218.2359), e-mail me at fniederholzer@ucanr.edu or write a short note on the back of the return form below and send it to us in the US Mail. [A donation is not needed to send in suggestions.]

Sincerely,

Franz Niederholzer, UCCE County Director and Orchard Advisor

Enclosed is my gift: \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other: _____

Where do you want to make an impact? 100 percent of your gift will support the area you designate.

Make checks payable to: **UC Regents**
To make a gift online, please visit: donate.ucanr.edu

My gift is in honor memory of: _____

- UCCE Colusa General Fund
- 4-H Youth Development Program
- Master Gardener Program
- Other _____

Please send gift acknowledgment to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

COLUSA COUNTY
STAFF

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Orchard Crops Advisor

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Wheeler**, 4-H Youth
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Specialist

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Assistant and Master
Gardener Coordinator

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Sarah Light, Agronomy
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Betsy Karle, Dairy
Advisor

Curt Pierce, Irrigation
& Water Resources

Becky Wheeler-Dykes,
Weed Ecology &
Orchard Systems



To support our
programs via online.

Thank you for your tax-deductible gift to UCCE Colusa County