

Mission and Goals

The University of California Cooperative Extension in Marin is part of a statewide system that makes UC research-based information available to local agencies, industries, and the public. Cooperative Extension's mission is to serve California through the creation, development and application of knowledge in agricultural, natural and human resources.

Our local UCCE goals include working to sustain our agriculture community, protecting our unique environmental heritage, and helping communities shape wise public policy by strengthening community participation and leadership skills in our youth and adults. In Marin County we are also known as the Farm Advisor's office.

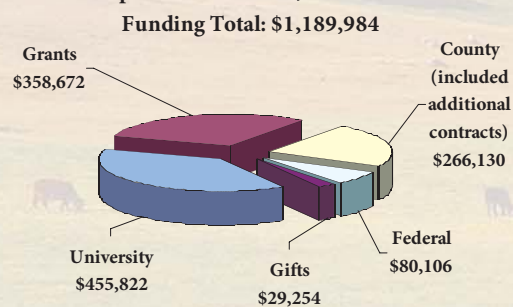
Our Programs in Marin

- ~ Sustainable Agriculture
- ~ Sudden Oak Death Coordination
- ~ Watershed Management
- ~ Urban Horticulture
- ~ Nutrition Education
- ~ 4-H Youth Development

Funding Sources

Our programs operate through a unique partnership between the County of Marin, the UC system, support from the USDA, and other private funds. Backed by the resources of the UC campuses, our educational programs use practically applied research information to solve community problems. We consult with individuals and organizations, publish newsletters, conduct local applied research, produce information for mass media, and conduct seminars and workshops. For every \$1 the county contributes, other sources contribute \$4.

UC Cooperative Extension, Marin 2004-05



Accomplishing our mission in Marin would not be possible without the strong and consistent support of the **MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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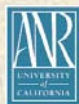
Student Intern

Isaac Cunningham

UCCE is dedicated to the principle of service and believes that an informed and educated citizenry is necessary for the continued development of our society. Our goal is to ensure that high quality, creative, and integrated research and extension programs are established and conducted in Marin County. To accomplish this, we need the help and expertise of many other groups and organizations. Following is a list of some of the groups with whom we collaborated this past year to accomplish many of our jointly-held goals.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Alcanza Even Start Program | Lagunitas School District | North Marin Water District |
| American Academy of Pediatrics | Larkspur Farmers' Market | Northbay Woolgrowers Association |
| American Cancer Society | Laurel Dell Elementary School | Novato Charter School |
| Bacich Elementary School | Lu Sutton School | Novato Children's Center |
| Bahia Vista Elementary School | Lynwood Elementary School | Novato Enrichment Care |
| Bayside Elementary School | Manzanita Child Care Development Center | Novato Youth Center |
| Bodega Marine Laboratory, UC Davis | Marin Academic Center | Old Gallinas Children's Center |
| Bolinas-Stinson Resource Recovery Project | Marin Agricultural Education Alliance | Pacific Aquaculture Caucus |
| Brookside School - Upper and Lower Campuses | Marin Agricultural Land Trust | Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association |
| California Aquaculture Association | Marin Art & Garden Center | Park Elementary School |
| California Coastal Conservancy | Marin Center | Pickleweed State Preschool |
| California Department of Fish & Game | Marin Community Child Development | Pt. Reyes Lions Club |
| California Department of Food & Agriculture | Marin Community Foundation | Pt. Reyes National Seashore |
| California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection | Marin Conservation League | Redwood Empire Small Business Development Center |
| California Department of Health Services | Marin County Agricultural Commissioner's Office | Regional Water Quality Control Board |
| California Forest Pest Council | Marin County Community Development Agency | Richardson Bay Audubon Sanctuary |
| California Oak Mortality Task Force | Marin County Dept. of Health & Human Services - Nutrition and Wellness Program- | Ross Elementary School |
| Canal Childcare Center | Marin County Farm Bureau | San Domenico School |
| City of Novato | Marin County IPM Commission | San Jose Middle School |
| City of San Rafael | Marin County Libraries | San Pedro School |
| College of Marin | Marin County Office of Education | Sausalito Farmers' Market |
| Community Alliance with Family Farmers | Marin County Parks, Open Space & Cultural Services | SEED |
| Department of Agronomy & Range Science, UC Davis | Marin County Wildlife & Fisheries Committee | Slide Ranch |
| Corte Madera Farmers' Market | Marin Farmers' Market | St. Isabella School |
| Department of Community Development, UC Davis | Marin Food Policy Council | Saint Mark's School |
| Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, UC Berkeley | Marin Food Systems Project | Strawberry Point School |
| Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Management, UC Berkeley | Marin Grape Growers Association | Sun Valley Elementary School |
| Department of Fish, Wildlife & Conservation Biology, UC Davis | Marin Learning Center | Tamalpais Valley Elementary School |
| Department of Forestry, UC Berkeley | Marin Municipal Water District | The Bay Institute |
| Department of Plant Pathology, UC Davis | Marin Organic | Tomales Bay Agricultural Group |
| Dixie Elementary School | Marin ReLeaf | Tomales Bay Oyster Company |
| Edna Maguire Elementary School | Marin Resource Conservation District | Tomales Bay Shellfish TAC |
| Environmental Education Council of Marin | Mary E. Silveira School | Tomales Bay Watershed Council |
| Fairfax/San Anselmo Children's Center | McEvoy Ranch | UC Forest Products Lab |
| Gallinas Elementary School | MCSTOPPP | UC IHRM Program |
| Hamilton Child Development Center | Miller Creek Middle School | UC Sea Grant Program |
| Hamilton Elementary School | National Marine Fisheries Service | UC Small Farm Center |
| Hog Island Oyster Company | National Park Service | USDA Forest Service |
| International Society of Arboriculture, Western Chapter | National Wildlife Research Center | USDA Risk Management Agency |
| Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre - Northern CA | Natural Resources Conservation Service | Vallecito Elementary School |
| | North Bay Dairy Women | Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center, Tulare |
| | North Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council | Walker Creek Ranch |
| | | West Marin Chamber of Commerce |
| | | Western United Dairymen |

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The Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) is the umbrella organization for Cooperative Extension

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University of California Cooperative Extension



Annual Report ~ Marin County 2004-05

Youth Development Program ~

LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS

occupied the nine community clubs, the Halleck Creek disabled riding program and 4-H summer camp program, for 1,745 youth members and 166 adult leaders. A marine biology project was a highlight: 33 youth and 20 adults learned about non-native species in Tomales Bay from scientists and completed the project with an overnight "Sharks in the Dark" adventure at Marine World. Our clubs also participate in county-wide events like the Harvest Fair, Farm Day, the West Marin Fair, and the Marin County Fair. This March, 2,000 K-4 children and 1,000 adults were hosted at the Farm Day event cosponsored with the Marin County Fair and the Marin County Office of Education. Exit teacher evaluations indicate an 84% rating for outstanding exhibits. The 4-H staff also does embryology projects in a variety of schools by providing supplies, curriculum, and support.



4-H is a member of the Marin County Children and Weight Coalition providing educational activities to improve nutrition and increase physical activity, partnering with Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre and others.

Sudden Oak Death Coordination ~

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE to other counties, agencies, and the public continued this year, with outreach assistance to a number of groups, and presentations to more than 2,000 individuals throughout the State. In Marin we hosted four sessions and provided information to 260 professionals, as well as providing support to homeowners through the Master Gardeners. We held two training sessions in the central coast area for 80 participants, and also

developed a national training session for Master Gardeners that reached over 730 people in 40 states. Work with California tribes greatly expanded this year due to a collaborative effort with the North Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council. We developed a "tribal toolkit" and "train-the-trainer" sessions for tribal elders and environmental staff and held three workshop sessions that reached approximately 60 people. During the spring semester, we hired an intern, Whitman College student Isaac Cunningham, to assist with an online survey of our outreach efforts. The survey generated a total of 302 responses from a variety of geographic regions and affiliations. Most responses came



Marin County Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program (FSNEP) provided curricular training to 64 teachers and classroom nutrition or garden activities to their 870 students. The age-appropriate UC curriculum integrates nutrition, health, plant science, and gardening. Program representative Elsa Latini is also a Marin Master Gardener volunteer. She has helped establish gardens at schools, and provides teacher support by working on a regular basis with the teachers and their students at Bayside, Laurel Dell, San Pedro, and Bahia Vista elementary schools, and seven of the Community Action Marin childcare centers. This program year, Elsa also educated teachers about the Marin Food Systems Project and the Marin Agricultural Land Trust's Farm Field Studies program, and assisted in facilitating classroom visits to Marin County farms in an effort to provide a more complete picture of where their food comes from.

The children have an increased awareness and knowledge about where food comes from, and eating healthful food. They draw about their experiences in their journals, talk about nutrition at lunch, and their parents are excited about it!
- Jennifer Banks, Bayside School

from the infested California counties and from the public sector (government/resource agencies). Forty-eight were from Marin County. The survey results indicate that past outreach efforts have been well received, but there is still a need for more work, especially with supplying handouts and signage in park systems, in addition to providing more information to reduce misdiagnosis. Based on these results we created three new tools: a Spanish translation of important facts and management recommendations; a "By The Numbers" fact sheet; and a demonstration shoe cleaning kit with instructions for use. This year also brought a consolidation of responsibilities within the California Oak Mortality Task Force, and we took over the management of the COMTF website as well as outreach coordination across the entire State.

I wanted to thank you for the excellent training seminar on oak dieback in Marin this week. It was extremely informative and well organized. I appreciated having lots of time for one-on-one questions with such knowledgeable people. - Peter Thut, Dominican University

Urban Horticulture Program ~

THE URBAN HORTICULTURE PROGRAM provides Integrated Pest Management information and education to the professional landscape industry. A total of 400 landscape professionals attended workshops at the San Rafael Community Center on landscape irrigation and emerging IPM problems. A record 500 Marinites attended one of 28 fall and spring library series at seven Marin libraries. Topics ranged from soil building and composting to garden design. Another 2,170 residents attended workshops and clinic events taught by Master Gardener volunteers, while we handled 2,398 walk or call-ins at our office in Novato. Retiring Horticulture Advisor Pavel Svihra was honored with a grove of trees named for him and a plaque at Novato's Josef Hoog Community Park. Said Carole Dillon-Knutson, a Novato Councilwoman, who studied under Svihra, "He provided the foundation for keeping Marin trees healthy and beautiful." Glenn Smith, our horticultural technician, is assisting the Master Gardener volunteer corps in servicing residents and commercial professionals until we are able to recruit a new advisor.



The Master Gardener Program is an excellent forum to help educate the community and we are so thankful to have benefited from it. Our school garden provides students who don't have access to a garden at home with wonderful learning opportunities. - The Davidson PTA

Sustainable Agriculture Program ~

THE "GROWN IN MARIN" program helps strengthen the viability and long-term success of agriculture in Marin by assisting farmers and ranchers with business and crop diversification. Program Coordinator Steve Quirt organized three educational farm diversification workshops on dry farming, seed saving, and organic weed control. Eighty-three percent of those attending say they will use what they learned in their work. In



October 2004, 100 young farmers and ranchers attended a "Taking Charge of the Future" conference. Since then, one young rancher, Jolynn Mendoza, has started her own organic dairy. Program Coordinator Steve Quirt publishes six newsletters per year that showcase successful diversification and organic transition examples. The Grown in Marin website (www.growninmarin.org) offers farm profiles and product availability, as well as historical information, resources, archived newsletters, and an events listing. Farmed organic acreage including pasture in Marin has increased from 357 acres in 2000 to over 11,000 in 2005. Organic production (includes livestock and crop produc-

tion) gross values increased from \$3.2 million in 2000 to \$3.96 million today. Steve organizes and supports the efforts of a local grass-fed livestock workgroup, and works closely with Marin Organic, MALT, Marin Farmers Market, and Marin Food Systems staff on many collaborative projects. Marin County has earned its reputation as an innovator and leader in the development of organic and sustainable farming practices. See the Summer '04 Issue of Coast & Ocean for a full story on this program (<http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/coast&ocean/summer2004/index.html>).



Steve has directly increased the amount of organic acreage in Marin County and has created optimism and excitement in our young people. - Kevin Lunny, beef producer



Water Quality & Watershed Program ~

IMPROVING THE QUALITY of water in California's streams and rivers is a high priority. This is evidenced in Marin County by the ongoing attention to conditions in the Tomales Bay Watershed with the goal of providing suitable water quality for shellfish harvesting and recreational activities. We provide leadership towards this goal through research, science-based education, and community service. This includes the on-farm evaluation of water-quality-improving practices that area livestock ranchers and dairy farmers can apply in their stewardship of the watershed. The



Marin Resource Conservation District funded watershed advisor Dave Lewis and Michael Lennox to evaluate the benefits of creek fencing, filter strips and other practices to improve water quality on agricultural lands. Funds were also provided by the State Water Resources Control Board to study bacterial dynamics at the fresh water stream and tidal zone area interface. Results from this research are shared through farm visits and educational events. The edu-

ational component of our program provides opportunity for producers, technical and financial assistance organizations, and regulatory agencies to access current research results on water quality management. Improving water quality and watershed conditions is a multi-stakeholder process involving the resolution of diverse interests and the development of partnerships. Dave is the current chair of the Tomales Bay Watershed Council's

Water Quality Committee. The Committee has secured \$35,000 from Marin Community Foundation and Marin County, to conduct water quality monitoring in the Bay and tributary streams. This monitoring will generate localized information needed to make informed decisions on the locations and timing of further stewardship efforts.

David's work complimented the RCD's water quality improvement projects perfectly. He provided us with critical information needed to measure the success of our construction projects.
- Nancy Scolari, Marin Resource Conservation District

Awards & Recognition ~

OUR OFFICE WAS RECOGNIZED with a Merit Award from the 2004 CSAC Challenge Award Competition for Dynamic Agriculture: County Services Reap Results Program along with the County Development Agency, and the Agricultural Commissioner's office.



In 2005 Master Gardener Clara Arvai was honored by the Marin County Board of Supervisors for her work maintaining the gardens at the Marin Civic Center; and 4-H leader, Nichola Spaletta, for her leadership work in the 4-H program.

Workshops/Conferences/Tours ~

HORTICULTURE
Emerging IPM Problems in the Winter Garden Education Program
Marin Master Gardener Training
Master Gardener Library Series
Pruning Demonstration Field Day
Smart & Efficient Landscape Irrigation
SOD Sampling & Analysis

AGRICULTURE
Beef Cattle Herd Health Workshop
Dairy Day
Grown in Marin Field Days
Olive Harvest Field Day
Organic Olive Oil Production
Sustainable Ag Funder Tour
Taking Charge of the Future

NATURAL RESOURCES
Native Oyster Restoration Field Day
SOD Workshop for Tribal Members
Water Quality Workshop

SCHOOL OUTREACH
Farm Day
Harvest Day
Summer Ag Institute for Teachers

5,111 PEOPLE WERE SERVED

Volunteer Contributions ~

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

187 adult volunteers donated a total of 9,271 hours
Donated Value Equivalent \$203,962

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

200 volunteers donated a total of 13,013 hours
Donated Value Equivalent \$286,286

DEPARTMENT TOTAL

387 volunteers donated 22,284 hours.

