



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Cooperative Extension



UC Cooperative Extension of Mariposa County Quarterly Newsletter

July 2024

Welcome to the first publication of our quarterly newsletter.

Welcome to the inaugural edition of UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Mariposa County's quarterly newsletter! We are thrilled to launch this newsletter to connect with you and share valuable insights and updates from our diverse range of programs.

At UCCE Mariposa County, we are committed to serving as local problem-solvers, bridging the gap between community needs and the wealth of knowledge generated by the University of California's research. Our dedicated team of county-based experts lives and works right here, ensuring that our efforts are rooted in and tailored to our region's unique challenges and opportunities.

This newsletter aims to keep you informed about our latest programmatic research findings, innovative outreach initiatives, upcoming events, and much more. Our vision is to provide you with multi-programmatic information that can empower you to make informed decisions, enhance economic well-being, and improve the overall quality of life in our county.

Together, we can work towards building a healthier, more resilient Mariposa County. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Fadzayi Mashiri Ph.D. (County Director and Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor)

Visit our website at <https://cemariposa.ucanr.edu/>

Regenerative Agriculture

Introducing our new Regenerative Agriculture Farm Advisor!

We are excited to introduce Sara Rosenberg as our new Regenerative Agriculture Advisor. She joined UCCE on May 1st and will be covering Mariposa, Merced, and Stanislaus Counties. Sara earned a master's in international agriculture development and a Ph.D. in horticulture and agronomy from UC Davis. Her academic focuses are agroecology, sustainable nutrient management, and extension research and methodology.



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What is Regenerative Ag?

One of the first things I often get asked is, what is regenerative agriculture? While formally we still lack a strict definition of regenerative agriculture at the state and national level, popular opinion and literature defines *regenerative agriculture* as an approach to managing our food, fiber, and fuel production systems with an intention to improve upon our environments by rehabilitating ecological systems.



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4-H Youth Development Program



4-H Activities

The Mariposa County 4-H Programs began this quarter by hosting Kid's Night at a local church and also Game Night and historical lecture in cooperation with the Independent Order of Oddfellows. Our north county club hosted a bake sale and our county participated in a Memorial Day wreath dedication ceremony at a local cemetery. We organized a Spring Show with an impressive livestock display at the Mariposa Butterfly Festival.

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Master Gardener Program

Garden Growing Support Close to Home

Here in Mariposa County, there is an active roster of 40+ volunteers. The 2024 training class welcomed nine more Master Gardeners to the ranks. The next training class will be in 2026. Master Gardeners can be seen at **local Mariposa events** such as the **Butterfly Festival** or overseeing the **Horticulture building** at the **County Fair**. But besides being available for gardening advice at festivals, and events, the MGs of Mariposa are involved in many outreach projects.

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Master Food Preserver Program

Grant Ending for UC Master Food Preserver Program of Mariposa County

For the past 2 years the UC Master Food Preservers of Mariposa County: serving Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Tuolumne counties has been funded through a USDA Specialty Crop Block grant and the UC Cooperative Extension, Mariposa. With the grant funding ending, it is a great time to look back over the grant period and recount the program's accomplishments.

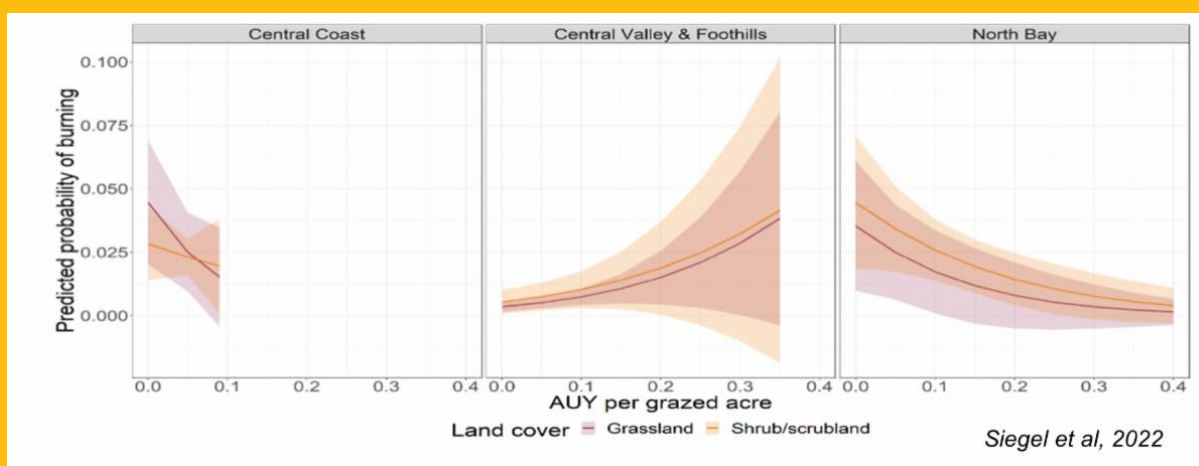
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Livestock and Natural Resources

Grazing and Fire: What's the Connection?

As we go through this fire season, I wanted to share some insight from a research project that my colleagues and I recently completed. The research shed light on how different levels of livestock grazing can impact the likelihood of wildfires occurring across different regions and vegetation types in California. We expected to see fewer wildfire incidents as grazing levels increased, because of the associated fuel reduction. The study reveals intriguing patterns that highlight both the potential benefits and complexities of using grazing as a tool for fire management.



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Grasshopper Outbreak!



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Grasshopper population increases early summer and this has been the case especially this week due to warm conditions, and drying of the water bodies, and grasses which trigger their egg hatching, and thus, more grasshoppers are out there. Every year, we have these grasshopper populations, but the number is much less. These are most likely *Melanoplus* grasshoppers (they can have multiple species). Grasshoppers lay eggs in the fall last year and begin to hatch in the spring and continue for a while. They like to lay eggs on grasses, ditches, alfalfa fields, etc., and when soil temperature goes up, they hatch and become nymphs and adults.

Updates from the UCCE Mariposa Fire Team

**WELCOME LAURA WISDOM,
Coordinator for the Yosemite Gateway
Prescribed Burn Cooperative!!**

We are excited to introduce Laura Wisdom, YGPBC's new coordinator. Laura brings a background in wildland firefighting, fire ecology, prescribed fire, hydrology, and outdoor recreation to the position after having worked for the Forest Service and National Parks Service in Yosemite and Northern California forests. Laura is passionate about bringing community members together to find practical solutions for mitigating wildfire risk, helping each other practice safe and effective prescribed fire, and having fun while doing it! In her free time, Laura can be found out in the mountains, running, paddling, and hiking with her dogs.



PREPARE FOR WILDFIRE SEASON

As wildfire season quickly approaches, now is a great time to begin thinking about wildfire preparedness. UC ANR Fire Network's webpage (<https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/>) provides several resources for you to learn more about preparing your home, evacuation planning, and firewise landscaping!

Read

CAL FIRE WILDFIRE PREVENTION GRANT FUNDING

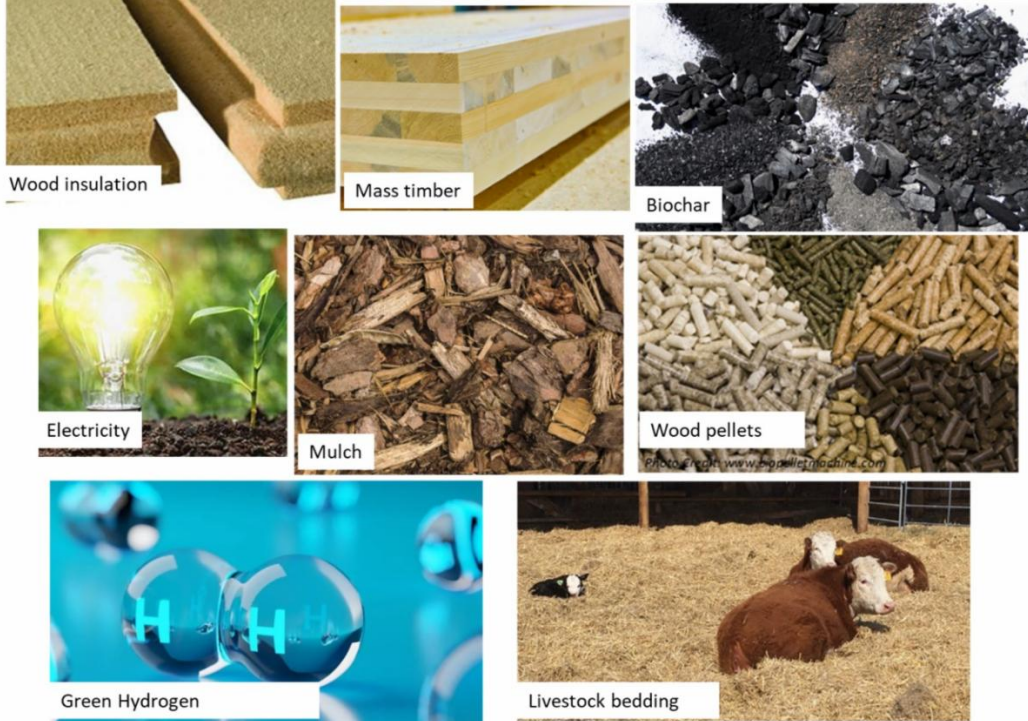
Our office recently secured a \$812,000 grant through the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Program funding the efforts of the Yosemite Gateway Prescribed Burn Cooperative (YGPBC) through March 2029. This funding will allow us to continue to offer prescribed burning and other community wildfire risk reduction workshops on an annual basis, fund training opportunities for YGPBC members, and purchase needed prescribed burning supplies, including a burn trailer that we hope will become a community resource!



Woody Biomass and Forest Products

Introduction to Woody Biomass & Biomass Products

In general, any forest-derived trees and wood parts, such as tops, branches, needles, leaves, or limbs that are the result of forest management or harvesting activities can be referred to as woody biomass. Nowadays, the term woody biomass has expanded to cover residuals from manufacturing or processing of value-added wood products, including sawdust and wood chips. Common sources of woody biomass include forestland, woodland, manufacturing facilities, and urban waste. Woody biomass varies in shapes and sizes and is usually considered non-merchantable. It is important to note that waste from the pulp and paper industry is not considered woody biomass as it already has an existing market. Small-diameter and dead trees can also be referred to as woody biomass since they fit the characteristics of biomass and are usually considered to have no commercial value.



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Upcoming Events



Master Gardeners and Master Food Preservers would like to invite you to their upcoming workshop- **Blue Ribbon Fair Entries** on July 27th, from 10 AM to Noon. Registration is required, and space is limited!



Yosemite Gateway Prescribed Burn Co-op is hosting a home hardening and defensible space workshop in Madera County this August! Date and location TBD.



Mariposa County 4-H would like to invite you to the **Mariposa County Fair and Jr Livestock Auction** on Labor Day Weekend, August 30th to September 2nd.

Please see our website for event registrations

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