



# University of California Cooperative Extension San Mateo and San Francisco Counties

Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

## What is Cooperative Extension?

Cooperative Extension is the county-based education and research branch of the University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Cooperative Extension exists in almost every county in the United States and is funded jointly by Federal, State and County Governments, via a three-way partnership between USDA, the state's Land Grant University and county government. Each partner plays a role in providing funding and support for Cooperative Extension programs. Cooperative Extension has been serving San Mateo County since 1945, and San Francisco County since 1970.

County staff extend knowledge and provide county expertise in specific Cooperative Extension program areas. Educational programs offered use practical research information to solve community problems. Subject matter specialists, housed on University of California campuses, partner with county staff to conduct applied research and supply information for county-based programs.

County Advisors are links in the extension of knowledge from the University to the public. They maintain close links with key community leaders and with other agencies and services at the county level, and serve as resources for the public, private agencies and organizations.

## Our Mission

The mission of the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources is to serve California through the creation, development and application of knowledge in agricultural, natural and human resources.

## San Mateo and San Francisco Counties Cooperative Extension Programs

### 4-H Youth Development



### Elkus Ranch



### Master Gardener Program



### Natural Resources and Livestock Program



### Landscape Horticulture/ Urban Forestry



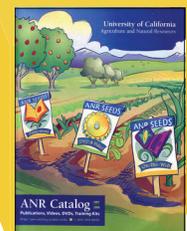
### Nutrition Education



### Nursery and Floriculture



### Public Information



# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMS

## Urban Forestry & Landscape Horticulture

Applied research and educational programs are conducted to enhance, protect, and preserve green spaces. We extend information to professionals in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Key issues being addressed include the development of water conservation strategies in landscapes, the adoption of integrated management principles and practices, the identification of key factors that contribute to the structural failure of trees, and the development of strategies to reduce tree root and infrastructure conflicts.



## Floral and Nursery Crop Production

The nursery and floriculture industry is a colorful and economically important industry in California, with an especially rich history in our county.



Protecting the economic viability of this industry is critical to its continued and future success, requiring a collaborative effort among growers, university researchers, regulatory and local government agencies, commodity groups and conservation organizations. Our mission is to conduct practical, problem-solving research to enhance production practices and address current and emerging disease and pest-related issues facing the California nursery and floriculture industry. Our educational outreach programs emphasize the detection, diagnosis, and management of ornamental crop diseases.

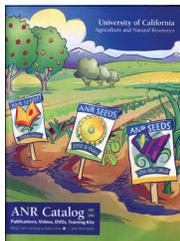
## Public Information

We bring resources to the public in various ways. The offices maintain regular weekday office hours. Office visits, phone calls and e-mail queries are welcome.

### **Publications**

Free and low cost publications in Agriculture, Landscape Horticulture/Urban Forestry Home Gardening and Pest Management, Nutrition, Food Safety and Preservation, and 4-H Youth Development are available from our ANR publications catalog, and the Internet. ANR Publications Catalogs are available at our office or at this Internet site:

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>



## 4-H Youth Development Program

4-H promotes positive youth development through citizenship, leadership, and life skills through hands-on learning activities.

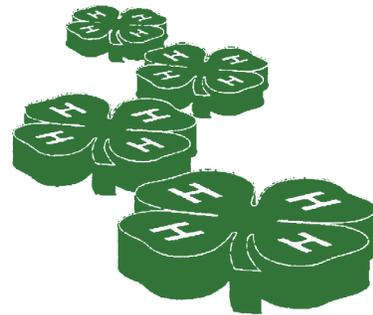


Non-formal in nature, the program provides youth ages 5 - 19 learning opportunities through project activities in group settings such as community-based clubs, school enrichment, or after school programs. 4-H relies on volunteer leaders to facilitate activities, projects, and 4-H Clubs. San Mateo County has **10 4-H clubs** and five 4-H farms where youth can raise and care for project animals and garden. 4-H Clubs meet as an entire group and for specific projects. Projects range from animal science to surfing, to public speaking. There are over 1,500 project areas available.

500 youth participate year-round and are guided by 250 volunteer adults, who give thousands of hours annually, to help youth learn and grow into capable caring adults, and share their experience and expertise in project areas.

4-H strives to keep all program costs minimal and affordable to families. San Mateo County 4-H Leader's Council raises and spends over \$17,000 each year to support youth activities.

The four H's stand for development of head (critical thinking), heart, hands (service to others), and health.



### **Services for Other Youth Professionals**

Staff consult and collaborate with other youth professionals in program development, leader training, teaching methods, and subject matter, and youth development research.

<http://fourhcyd.ucdavis.edu/>

<http://www>

Visit our website

<http://cesanmateo.ucdavis.edu>

# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMS

## Nutrition Education

We strive to improve dietary quality, shopping skills, food resource management, food safety, and overall health of limited-income individuals, families, and youth through two USDA-funded programs: the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.



We provide the following **free** multi-lingual nutrition education services to eligible schools and agencies:

- **California Content Standards**-based curricula, training, academic support, and event coordination for teachers and youth program leaders.
- Parent nutrition education workshops and events.
- Series of 8 practical, hands-on nutrition lessons for parents of young children.
- Nutrition education for food stamp recipients through the local Food Stamp Offices.

## Natural Resources and Livestock Program



Natural Resource and Livestock program addresses natural resources issues in Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. Bay Area open spaces, both privately and publicly owned, are largely used

for livestock grazing. Maintaining these working landscapes near large urban centers presents many challenges, such as:

- Protecting water quality
- Controlling invasive species
- Providing wildlife habitat, including endangered species
- Maintaining open space

The main clientele for this program are private landowners; resource management professionals working on private, State and Federal lands; and other groups such as users of public lands, conservation organizations, and the agriculture and forest products industries.

## Elkus Ranch and Conference Center

Elkus Ranch provides unique hands-on environmental educational experiences for over 6000 Bay Area Youth each year. Youth learn about the interrelationship of the environment and themselves in a rural setting. The 4,400 square foot **Conference Center** serves as an educational and day conference center.



### **Youth Programs**

- K-12 classes benefit from overnight camps and daily Ranch programs.
- Opportunities abound at the Ranch to better understand our food, fiber and county natural resources. In a cooperative learning atmosphere students develop self-esteem and leadership abilities.

### **Environmental Educational Programs**

- A Therapeutic Horticultural Program for disabled youth provides career support and/or recreational opportunities.

## Master Gardener Volunteer Program

### **Advice to Grow By - Ask Us!**

The San Mateo/San Francisco Master Gardener program started in 2005 with nine volunteers. Since then, more than **50 volunteers** have graduated from the 10 week training program. In exchange for the extensive training by UC Cooperative Extension Advisors, they provide research-based information and perform volunteer service in their local communities through a myriad of horticultural-related programs.



Outcomes of educational efforts:

- Help residents grow their own vegetables/fruit and eat healthier
- Resource for school and community gardens/programming
- Help residents adopt environmentally responsible gardening practices
- Mentor youth
- Help beautify communities
- Staff a help line two days a week for phone calls, walk-ins, or email requests
- Built a demonstration sensory garden at Elkus Ranch

Over 130,000 urban gardeners annually are assisted by Master Gardener Volunteers in 30 programs across the state.

Email: [mgvhelpline@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mgvhelpline@ucdavis.edu)

## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION LEAD STAFF



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U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of California, and San Mateo & San Francisco Counties Cooperating