

A Message From the County Director



Placer and Nevada Counties' UC Cooperative Extension staff provide research-based educational services to meet needs of local residents. Our programs in 4-H and Youth Development, Master Gardeners, Specialty Crops Eat Local Program, nutrition, horticulture and livestock provide education with an emphasis on hands-on learning to "help people help themselves."

The Horticulture and Small Farms program provided 122 hours of training to 602 farmers. Farm Business Planning Short Course and Beginning Farming Academy were held to help existing and new farmers and ranchers understand how to plan for profitability. The focus on farm business training has resulted in positive outcomes for producers in Placer and Nevada Counties. In a recent survey, 85.7% of local producers who participated in farm business training reported being profitable as compared to 24.8% reported in the last (2012) USDA Census of Agriculture

The Livestock and Natural Resources program provided 130 hours of training to 973 producers. There was extensive work and support provided to local producers in Placer and Nevada County on starting the development of a business plan for a USDA inspected harvest and processing facility in Placer County.

The 4-H program had 1,206 members led by 347 adult volunteers who continued to provide non-formal educational and preventative programs aimed at helping youth develop into mature, healthy, capable, and contributing citizens. Over 4,710 elementary and home-school students learned about embryology by hatching chicks with using the 125 incubators available from our office. This year seven Placer 4-H youth received a President's Volunteer Service Award for their volunteer hours over the 2015-16 year with a combined total of over 500 hours served.

There are 240 certified Master Gardeners in Placer and Nevada Counties that provide over 15,500 hours of volunteer service through workshops, community events, and manning the hot line. Over 14,000 people received gardening and composting information through outreach and educational workshops. Both Master Gardener programs have demonstration gardens that conducted 36 workshops. The gardens provide education to schoolchildren, garden clubs, and other organizations.

Nutrition education was taught to over 2,900 pre-school and school-age children through the UC CalFresh Nutrition Education Program. The Nutrition BEST program provided nutrition education and a weekly box of produce from a local farm to 96 Early Head Start families in Lincoln, Loomis, Auburn, and Kings Beach. Nevada County featured a youth as risk grant that provided nutrition and gardening education to 180 afterschool children. Nutrition education was taught by a team of teen teachers from Nevada County. Two of these teens attended and taught teaching skills at the 4-H Healthy Living Summit held in Washington D.C.

A summary of these and many other contributions are contained in this document. Their diverse and extensive efforts were supported by over \$700,000 in grant funding. I hope you will find our efforts relevant and meaningful in their ability to maintain and improve the quality of life enjoyed here in Placer and Nevada Counties.

*Roger Ingram,
County Director*

