

Mission Statement

Cooperative Extension serves Californians through the creation, development and application of knowledge in agriculture, natural and human resources.

Nonformal Education from the University

Cooperative Extension is a public outreach arm of the University of California. We link University research and practice through non-credit teaching, applied research projects that address local issues, and public service activities.

Important Partners

Cooperative Extension is a unique three-way partnership among:

- Contra Costa county government
- University of California
- U.S. Department of Agriculture

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UCCE – Contra Costa Pleasant Hill staff:

Shelley Murdock
County Director/
4-H Youth Development Advisor

Janet Caprile
Farm Advisor

Jodi Cassell
Area Marine Advisor

Marisa Neelon
Nutrition Advisor

Bethallyn Black
Urban Horticulture/
Master Gardener Coordinator

Helle Andersen
School & Community Nutrition Educator
EFNEP/FSNEP

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Community Nutrition Educator
EFNEP/FSNEP

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4-H Youth Development

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UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

We bring the University to you through our programs in:

- Agriculture
- Horticulture
- Natural Resources
- Nutrition
- Youth Development

UC
CE

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FAX: 925-646-6708
<http://cecontracosta.ucdavis.edu>

Agriculture

The agriculture program provides assistance to Contra Costa farmers to assure a sustainable food system that is safe, productive and environmentally friendly. We conduct local research and provide information to commercial growers through consultations, newsletters, field days, publications, and workshops. Information is available on all aspects of agricultural production including:



- Integrated pest management
- Organic production
- Crop and variety selection
- Cost of production
- Best management practices
- Starting a farm

Contact: Janet Caprile, Farm Advisor
(925) 646-6540, jlcaprile@ucdavis.edu

Horticulture



UCCE's urban horticultural program provides Contra Costa residents information on:

- Integrated pest management practices
- Water conservation strategies
- Reduction of non-point pollution
- Reduction of green waste
- Urban forestry
- Selection and care of locally-suitable horticultural plants
- Selection and maintenance of turfgrass, golf courses and sports fields. (Contact: Ali Harivandi, Environmental Horticulture Advisor, (510) 639-1271, mharivandi@ucdavis.edu)

Master Gardeners, graduates of a rigorous horticultural education program provide horticultural outreach including a gardening information hotline, (925) 646-6586, which is staffed Monday through Friday, 9 AM – Noon.
<http://ccmg.ucdavis.edu>

Contact: Bethallyn Black, Urban Horticulture/
Master Gardener Coordinator
(925) 646-6130, bblack@ucdavis.edu

Natural Resources

Through cross-county collaboration, educational programs are also offered in:

- Range and watershed management
Contact: Sheila Barry, Bay Area Natural Resource Advisor, sbarry@ucdavis.edu, (408) 282-3106
- Forestry and wood product use
Contact: John Shelly, Forest Products Advisor, (510) 665-3491, john.shelly@nature.berkeley.edu
- Reducing mold and wood decay in wooden homes
Contact: Steve Quarles, Wood Durability Advisor, (510) 665-3580, steve.quarles@nature.berkeley.edu
- Safeguarding homes from wildfires
Contact: Steve Quarles or John Shelly
- Coastal resource management, water quality issues, marine fisheries, waterfront management
Contact: Jodi Cassell, Area Marine Advisor
(925) 646-6127; jlcase@ucdavis.edu

Nutrition



Research projects in childhood obesity, anemia prevention in young children and how to address food insecurity benefit all residents.

Contact: Marisa Neelon, Advisor
(925) 646-6128, mneelon@ucdavis.edu
<http://cecontracosta.ucdavis.edu/Nutrition/>

Adult Nutrition Education

Through federal funds, our nutrition education programs enable low-income English- and Spanish-speaking Contra Costa families to:

- Choose foods that promote good health
- Stretch limited food dollars
- Safely prepare food at home

Youth Nutrition Education

Nutrition and garden-enhanced nutrition material is available to teachers of pre-K–12th grade children from food stamp eligible families. The program focuses on:

- Increasing fruit, vegetable, and whole grain consumption
- Improving snack choices
- Increasing physical activity

Curriculum, some in Spanish, and technical assistance is included.



Youth Development

Helping young people grow into responsible, productive adults is the goal of our youth development program. Workshops and technical assistance is available to staff of youth-serving agencies in topics such as:



- Increasing youth voice and participation in communities
- Effectively working with children and youth
- Increasing science, reading and environmental literacy

Contact: Shelley Murdock, County Director/
4-H Youth Development Advisor
(925) 646-6124, swmurdock@ucdavis.edu

4-H



Through “learn-by-doing” activities, youth in grades K–12 have fun, make friends and acquire skills and knowledge. Activities are offered through community clubs, camp, day camps and special interest programs that lead to youth acquiring:

- Citizenship
- Leadership
- Life skills

Contact: 4-H General Information
(925) 646-6543, <http://ccc4h.org>



Countywide Youth Commission

As an advisory body to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, Commissioners ages 12–18 increase their skills in critical thinking, public speaking, event planning and research by:

- Studying community issues
- Conducting public forums and surveys
- Writing position papers
- Advising the Board on youth-related issues
- Recognizing the contributions youth make to the County

Contact: <http://www.cyc.typepad.com>