# University of California **Cooperative Extension (UCCE)**

### **Activities During COVID-19**

Dr. Stephanie Larson **UCCE** Department Head May 18, 2020





## **Activities During COVID-19:**

**Farm Calls & Research Projects:** UCCE continued to provide assistance and resources to clientele remotely, and with field visits, as agriculture and natural resources work is considered essential services by the county, state and federal government. UCCE continued critical forest health, rangelands, livestock, viticulture, dairy, food systems and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) research.

**Fire & Resiliency: Match.Graze:** UCCE Sonoma is finalizing "Match.Graze", an online database that connects landowners who don't have grazing animals to livestock owners with animals that can provide vegetation management services; **Good Fire Alliance (GFA):** GFA is planning to conduct prescribed fires over Memorial Day weekend - 100+ acre burn unit at Cooley Ranch near Lake Sonoma & Sonoma Ecology Center is planning a burn at Van Hoosear Wildflower Preserve; **Forest Health:** UCCE organized, hosted and presented in the "California Oak Health Workshop"; a workshop for oak enthusiasts, landowners, natural resource managers, and foresters.

**Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD):** UCCE staff is facilitating weekly COAD Food Group conference calls for emergency food response organizations, municipalities and school districts/SCOE. UCCE, coordinating with the Sonoma County Food System Alliance, is strategizing for longer term emergency food response planning to strengthen the local food supply chain. Focus is on local production & distribution to meet the food needs.

**Boxes to Food Bank:** UCCE used connections to secure 12,000 wine boxes which were donated to Redwood Empire Food Bank for boxing food.

**EOC/ COOP:** UCCE has provided service as a Disaster Service Worker (DSW), sewing face coverings for those in need. In addition, completing forms, surveys and daily conference calls to maintain a fluid communication with all UCCE and County staff.



#### Sonoma County University of California Cooperative Extension



### **Services Provided by UCCE**

**Fire & Resiliency:** Lake Sonoma, Resilient Landscapes, Forest Health

**Youth:** Virtual Chickenque, Ongoing programming for teens around college and career readiness, Community service – sewing masks

**Economic Viability**: Farm Calls & Research, Climate Change, Farm to Food Box, County Lands for Food Production

**Food Systems & Security:** Master Food Preserver, Master Gardeners, Mobile Slaughter Unit







# **Impacts to Services**

Walk ins

- Master Gardeners
- Staff interactions
- Master Food Preserver training

Staffing:▶ 85% work remotely▶ 15% work in office

#### Youth Events

- 4-H Soccer League in Roseland School District (150 youth)
- 4-H Summer Camp (250 youth)
- 4-H Fashion Revue (30 youth)



## Methods to Address Office Closure

**Coronavirus Resources webpages** 

- Farming and food safety
- Financial aid
- Where to find local food
- Volunteer opportunities

UC CE UCCE Sonoma County

UC ANR Links Calendars Subscribe

Disaster Resources **Drought Resources** Fire Resources Flood Resources Coronavirus Federal Programs Food Safety On and Off-Farm Local Food & Aid **Crop Resources** Livestock, Dairy & Pets Grants & Loans

#### **Coronavirus Resources**

Resources	Financial	Additional
Ag Resources	<u>Federal Aid</u>	
Food Safety: On & Off Farm	State & County Aid	<u>Local Food</u>
<u>Food Safety: Farmer's Market</u>	<u>Non-Profit/Private Aid</u>	<u>Volunteer</u>
	Employee/Self Employed Aid	
	Immigrant Aid	

#### ucanr.edu/coronaSC



# Outreach

### To Public

### @UCCESonoma

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram

### **Constant Contact**

- Newsletter & Alerts
- 5600+ subscribers

### Work with Legislators

State programs:

- Senator McGuire
- Assemblymember Levine
- Assemblymember Wood

Federal programs:

Congressman Thompson



# **Additional Services/Partnerships**

County / State

- COAD
- Permit Sonoma
- Sonoma Water
- Cal Fire
- CA Dept of Food & Ag

**Agencies & Non-Profits** 

- Redwood Empire Food Bank
- Farm Trails
- CropMobster
- CAFF/Farmers Guild
- The Center (The Center for Social & Environmental Stewardship)





#### University of California Cooperative Extension, SONOMA!



Dr. Stephanie Larson **UCCE** Department Head slarson@ucanr.edu Stephanie.Larson@Sonoma-County.org

