

UC Cooperative Extension in Santa Barbara County

HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS • HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS • HEALTHY COMMUNITIES • HEALTHY CALIFORNIANS

From the field: “Thank you to Santa Barbara County 4-H for offering such an incredible program to our community.” – Carpenteria Healthy Aging Hub



Playa Del Sur 4-H visiting senior citizens in their community of Carpenteria. Lack of social support and loneliness was a community concern.

4-H: GROWING YOUTH LEADERS

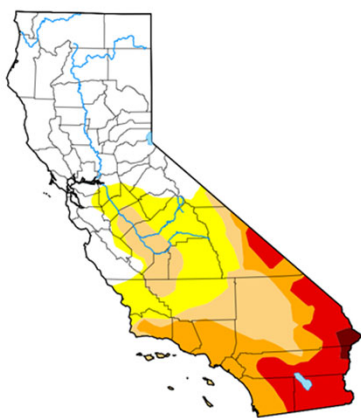
The mission of the UC 4-H youth development program is to help young people reach their full potential by fostering leadership, encouraging community involvement, and inspiring a spirit of service. Youth in the Playa Del Sur 4-H Club in Carpenteria identified a need in their community, recognizing that local senior citizens experience higher rates of loneliness and conditions like dementia. Studies show that programs which include intergenerational interactions can increase life satisfaction and reduce levels of depression and anxiety in older adults. To address these issues, Santa Barbara 4-H youth leaders are stepping up with compassion and creativity, bringing their sheep and goats to community centers in the area to engage and interact with residents, and create joyful experiences for people of all ages. These visits build bridges between generations and have the potential to **increase healthy outcomes for both youth and older adults**. Santa Barbara 4-H youth leaders are showcasing the power of youth, animals, and heart-led service.

UC Master Gardeners and Advisors

The UC Master Gardeners of Santa Barbara County are in the middle of training a new cohort of volunteers. The training involves 50+ hours of education in topics including plant pathology, water and soil management, safe and sustainable pest management, and much more. UCCE **Advisor, Ben Faber**, leads several of the training classes and was doing just that when he and a few trainees identified signs of the Avocado Lace Bug. At first, it looked like sunburn damage on avocado leaves, but on turning it over they found the telltale fecal pellets of the bug. According to Faber, “This was the first time I’d seen it in Santa Barbara. There are a few infestations in the Carpinteria area, but it’s mainly been confined to San Diego and Orange counties.” Faber speculated that it rode up with someone from down south with an avocado tree since it’s not a great flyer. Read more about it at UC Integrated Pest Management: <https://ipm.ucanr.edu>. UC Master Gardeners and Advisors empower individuals with gardening skills **to promote food gardening, community well-being, and improved climate resilience**.



Avocado Lace Bug on an avocado leaf



California Drought Map Released March 27, 2025

Map released: Thurs. March 27, 2025
Data valid: March 25, 2025 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

None
D0 (Abnormally Dry)
D1 (Moderate Drought)
D2 (Severe Drought)
D3 (Extreme Drought)
D4 (Exceptional Drought)
No Data

Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
Denise Gutzmer, National Drought Mitigation Center

Drought monitoring for range management

UCCE **Advisor, Royce Larsen**, provided information for the Central Coast for updating the U.S. Drought Monitor. This information went to the Senior Service Hydrologist at NOAA National Weather Service, in Oxnard. Currently, the US Drought Monitor shows SB County in abnormally dry to severe drought conditions. This information is used by agencies like the USDA Farm Service Agency to help with programs that help producers because of drought related impacts. We are experiencing drought conditions, which will result in forage losses for the livestock industry. If we get a lot of rain in April, conditions may improve. UCCE Advisors conduct applied research like this project to **inform policy and practices that foster economic resilience for agricultural producers**.

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Agriculture and Natural Resources UC Cooperative Extension

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