

UC Santa Cruz

News & Notes of the UCSC Farm & Garden

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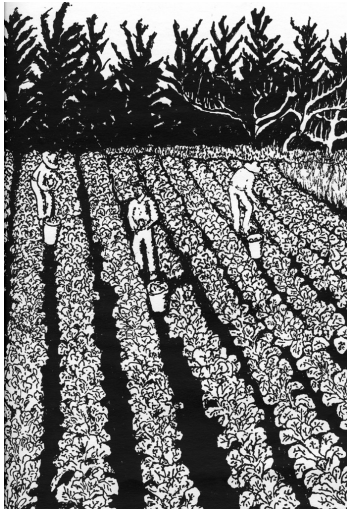
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News & Notes of the UCSC Farm & Garden

Issue 178, Summer 2024

Then & Now, Now & Then

Reflecting on 50 years of teaching public workshops 1974-2024 and sneak preview of August 10th events

—by Orin Martin

The genesis of the Farm and Garden's public workshops dates to 1974-1975—the year that saw the inauguration of the Apprentice Program under the aegis of University Extension. Yes, Chadwick had an apprentice program in a traditional and yet ad-hoc manner from the outset of the garden (circa 1967). The “new” program in 1974 was initially a year-long affair; it featured the day-to-day learning fused with working and the shepherding of the fields and gardens, and it also saw apprentices taking a couple of university classes during the winter months.

Turns out, I was one of those apprentices in 1974. It seems the “powers that be” thought it would be a good summation of all that was learned, fused with the concept of the spirit of volunteerism, for neophyte apprentices to give public workshops on the basics of organics (soil, compost/cover crops, the raised bed, etc). And, so we did.

I gave my “inaugural” workshop on soils. I was nervous then (and rightfully so) as I am still nervous right before every workshop I give, even now. Nonetheless, the audience was very receptive, both then and now.

Subsequently, the Friends of the Farm and Garden picked up the spirit of public service and began a series of workshops throughout the year and over the years . . . the rest, as they say, is history, with hundreds of workshops having been presented over the decades.

These workshops have really “spread the word” (the gardening word) to the local community. During the pandemic, we took these workshops to Zoom and our reach (almost, sorta) exponentially expanded. Many of these pandemic-era clunky/online endeavors (it's really clunky to try to teach a practical skill[s] online) saw attendance in the 200-300 range, with one topping 700. And our reach went global, with attendees from across the U.S., India, Canada, and Europe! These events were warmly and effusively received; especially given the tenor of the time . . . as have been the many free videos we have posted online (with over a million views).

So, in that vein, we are celebrating a tradition of 50 years of public workshops with a morning workshop at the Alan Chadwick Garden (or, as we call it, “the Up Garden”) focusing on the signature footprint of our efforts: the permanent raised bed. This will be on the morning of August 10th from 9:30am to 12:00pm and then we will reconvene at the Hay Barn at 12:30pm to talk and reflect a little more re: our mission—teaching organic gardening and farming in an apprenticeship style—that is, a paradigm where the garden serves as classroom, text, curriculum, lab, and, very importantly to me, my lesson notes. And to entice you further, there will be refreshments and beverages too (of the highest order), meshed with a bit of mirth and frivolity, socializing and laughter (see the upcoming events calendar on page 3 for more information). Please join us for one or the other or both these events. As The Beatles once sang: “a splendid time is guaranteed for all.” (You know, The Beatles, Paul McCartney's old group . . .)

A further anecdote regarding 50 years of public teaching.

Our main endeavor has been teaching people to grow plants organically and to tend the soil, gently and inter-generationally. We've done this systematically since way back when . . . and recent ‘Yelp’ reviews say we do this reasonably well, that we are trending . . .

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News & Notes

To wit, numberless times I've run into former workshop participants while sitting in a coffee shop, maybe raising a glass in a "den of inequity" (a.k.a., a pub), sitting in the stands at a Giants game, or coming out of the water down at the ocean's edge and people have come up to me, unbidden, and said things along the lines of:

—"Hey, my compost pile heated up to 136 degrees!"

—"I planted some of those Hudson Golden Gem apples you raved about and now I have so many apples I have to give them away!"

—"You were right, Mr. Lincoln is a sinfully-scented, blood-red rose and the only Republican president in my garden."

—"Now I grow those Little Gem lettuces and don't have to pay two bucks a head at the market!"

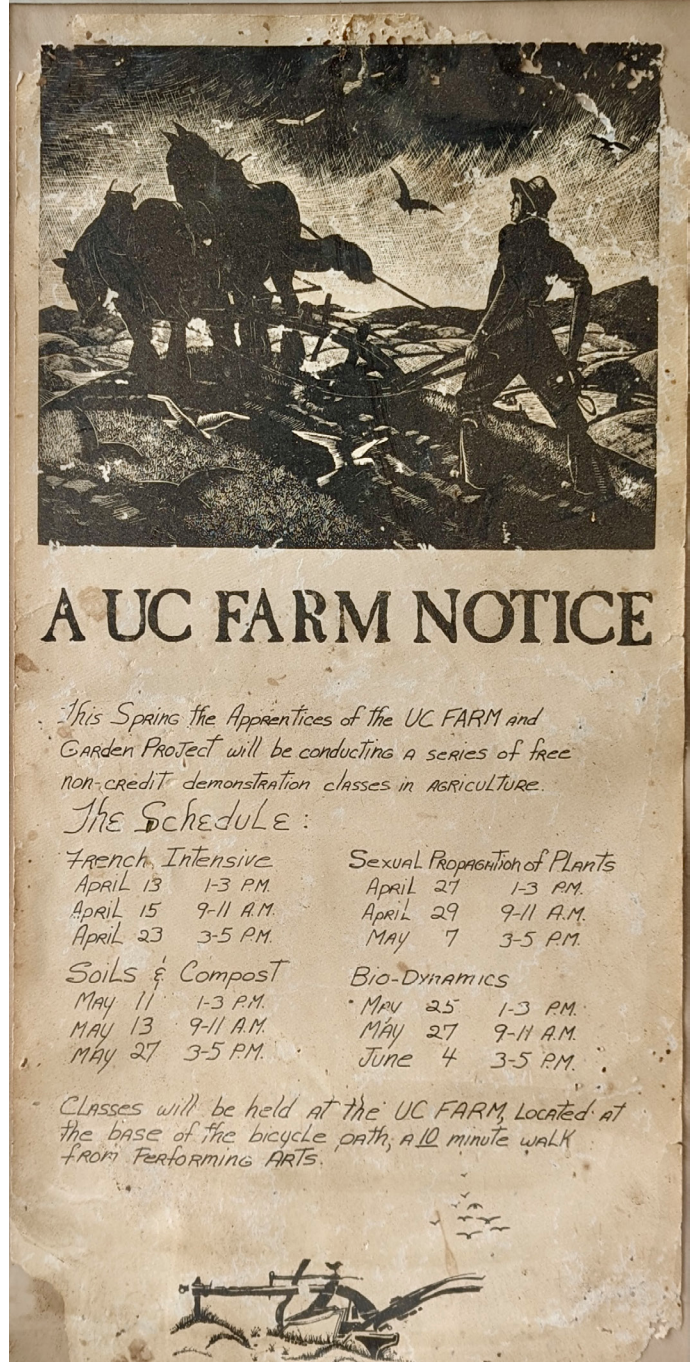
My point here, and there is a point, is that there are more than 1,500 former workshop attendees; walking around, spreading the word . . . why don't you join the crowd? Come join us; looking back, looking forward—"then and now, now and then" and, as always, onward and upward (in the garden).

People come with good intentions and they lay down a "chunk of change" . . . in a sense, a very real sense, we have a "fiduciary" responsibility to come through for folks—to "bring it."

Me, my work is performative and so I try to prep and rise to the occasion. Friday afternoon sees me channeling the words of legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden (the "wizard of Westwood") as he starkly admonished his players daily—"failing to prepare is preparing to fail. It also sees me hearing the sweet, yet stern, words of my dad during my "wayward" high school years: "You better buckle down, son . . ."

Enough said, and so I do. Here's the "snapshot"—bike panniers loaded with books, yellow legal pads, and Sharpie pens, I pedal into a local pub, spread out my "wares" and take a deep dive, refining my remarks for the next morning's workshop. Of course, I'm aided by both a good craft beer and a stiff shot of espresso. A contradiction of sorts . . .

Me (as stated above) and the general public (knockin' off, chillin', having a beer or two). Occasionally I look up from my work, pause and look around, bemused by people enjoying themselves, laughing, imbibing and such—me, not so much. So it's after five on a Friday, the general public kickin' back, and me, I'm still working at my "other job"—Saturday workshops.



This 1974 flyer announces the first series of public workshops taught by apprentices.

Hey, as Woody Guthrie once sang: "It's good work if you can get it, and, you can get it if you try" . . .

It's all in the spirit of public volunteerism and, in the end, (despite its trials and tribulations) well worth the effort. Hope to see you on August 10th.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Visit <https://agroecology.ucsc.edu/news-events/events/index.html> for more information and to register for these events.

Farmstand

*Thursdays, 12:30-6pm, June 20-September 26 in the Hay Barn. *No Farmstand on July 4 due to the holiday.**

Support the Center for Agroecology and bring home delicious, organic produce from the UCSC Farm and Garden by shopping at the Farmstand. Pay upfront and get discounts and skip the payment line for signing up for a Market Share. Find more information at agroecology.ucsc.edu.

Poetry and Music in the Garden

Saturday, June 29, 12-3pm at the Chadwick Garden

Poet Laureates and youth poets will read from their work at the 30th anniversary of this beloved event. This year's lineup features Santa Cruz County's first Poet Laureate Gary Young and current Laureate Farnaz Fatemi, and El Dorado County Poet Laureate Stephen Meadows. We also welcome newcomers Madeline Aliah and Sylvi Kayser to this event. Plus, enjoy live music by Keith Greeninger.

Free Guided Tour of the UCSC Farm

Sundays, July 7 & August 4, 2-3:30pm at the UCSC Farm

Tour the farm's organically-managed greenhouses, hand-worked garden beds, orchards, and row crop fields, while learning about the history of the site and the basic concepts of organic farming and gardening. Perched on a meadow near the campus entrance, the farm also offers spectacular views of the Monterey Bay. Heavy rain cancels.

Game Cams, Birds, and Wildlife Tracking, Oh My!

Saturday, July 13, 10am-1pm at the UCSC Farm

Join Garth Haywood of Hidden Villa and Chad Moura of the Santa Cruz Mountains Reserve to learn how to set up, place, and check your wildlife cameras, and learn about wildlife tracking. *Cost: \$20. Members get 10% off workshop cost.*

Volunteer Work Day

Saturday, July 13, 9am-12pm at the Chadwick Garden

Join us in the Chadwick Garden for a volunteer workday! Tasks may include weeding, harvesting, raking leaves, or building compost piles. Please come prepared with adequate shoes, water, and sun protection. We will provide tools and light snacks. Questions can be directed to Madeline Holtkamp (mholtkam@ucsc.edu). Visit the URL listed above to RSVP.

Then and Now—Now and Then

A two-part event on Saturday, August 10

Workshop at the Chadwick Garden: 9:30am-12pm

Celebration and Talk at the Hay Barn: 12:30-3pm

Join us to celebrate 50 years of public workshops at the UCSC Farm & Garden and Orin Martin's teaching in the garden. First, Orin will teach a workshop on the permanent raised bed at the Chadwick Garden. Then, guests will gather for food and drink in the Hay Barn with remarks by Orin on the tradition of public service teaching at the Farm and Garden. Join us for one or both events! Donations are requested from attendees. Visit the URL listed above to register.

Superfoods and Spice Blends

Friday, August 16, 5:30-7pm at the Hay Barn

Make your own powdered blends of dehydrated vegetables, herbs, spices, and salts to flavor food and add nutrients to meals. After going through the process from produce to powder, we'll provide a selection of ingredients so you can make your own spice blend to take home. We'll sample some pre-made blends while we sip mocktails. It will be a party! *Cost: \$40. Members get 10% off workshop cost.*

Farm to Fork Benefit Dinner

Sunday, September 8 at the UCSC Farm

Dinner on the Farm: 4-7:30pm

Dancing in the Hay Barn: 7:30-9:30pm

Join us for an evening on the UCSC Farm, featuring music, appetizers, tours, and local wine followed by a four-course family-style dinner. As the sun sets, head down to the Hay Barn for music, dancing, and dessert. Tickets are \$200 or \$25 for the barn dance portion only.

Consider Everything That Grows

*"When I consider everything that grows
Holds in perfection but a little moment"**

Agroecology. It is the 30th anniversary of the annual Poetry in the Garden celebration and the 50th year of public workshops in practical organic small-scale farming and gardening. We all know that time changes things, but that is never quite so evident as with the seasons in a garden. Though some of us are prone to linger on the past, this is an appropriate moment to acknowledge the origins and progress of the UCSC Farm & Garden.

I had the opportunity to sit down with Kurt Christensen recently and learn

*"When I perceive that men as plants increase,
Cheered and check'd even by the selfsame sky,
Vaunt in their youthful sap, at height decrease,
And wear their brave state out of memory"**

about the origins of the poetry event. Kurt is a long-standing member on the Friends Board, an apprentice from the early 1980s, and one of the masterminds of the very first poetry festival. Understanding the garden in the context of that time is important. The present-day Center for Agroecology is now a showpiece of the administration, embraced by the UC system with full recognition of its impact on students who hold the keys to our future as a species. After 50 years of hard work at every level, organic agriculture is mainstream, agroecology is an academic major, and the Center's work has resulted in land grand status for the university. It was not always that way.

The Chadwick Garden and, later, the campus farm were established by rogue creatives, loosely attached to the academic mission of the university. During the early years, a recurring ebb and flow of institutional support sometimes resulted in the garden's struggle for existence on campus. In an effort to keep the nascent concept of practical agroecology (a term that was not widely known yet) alive, the Friends of the Farm and Garden served a critical function: to keep eyes on the program and involve the public as allies when budget shortfalls threatened to close it down.

Towards that end, in 1994, the Friends Board, along with Orin Martin, met to come up with a plan to entice the public to fall in love with the garden while highlighting interdisciplinary intersections between arts & letters and botany. The Chadwick Garden was a magical space then, as it is now. The Board considered using sculpture, painting, or music to draw the public, but finally landed on a poetry reading. The inspiration for that decision came from a memorial service for founding gardener Alan Chadwick in 1981. At the service, then artist-in-residence Alan Gussow carved a series

This year has been a year of milestones at the Center for

of "Pukumani" poles from a fallen white oak. Pukumani poles are an Australian aboriginal tradition designed to tell the story of a deceased person's life and then decompose into the landscape. The garden was radiant with blooming tithonia and monarch butterflies. It was a misty morning with ethereal obo music playing. Someone read Shakespeare's "Sonnet 15," one of Chadwick's favorite poems. Over 200 people assembled in a circle along the pathway loop and held hands. Magical.

*"To change your day of youth to sullied night;
And all in war with Time for love of you,
As he takes from you, I engraft you new"**

That is the inspirational memory that came to Kurt during the

discussion of what kind of art project to offer in the garden 30 years ago, and the Board agreed. Kurt has been the annual poetry and music event's master of ceremonies for 29 of the 30 years. This year's theme is "Poet Laureates past, present, and future." The Friends of the Farm & Garden are honored to present five poets, including Gary Young, Santa Cruz's first ever poet laureate and UCSC lecturer. When Gary was awarded the title of laureate, he generously suggested: "This says more about the community of Santa Cruz than it does about my work."

Also presenting is our current Poet Laureate and founding member of the Hive Poetry Collective, Farnaz Fatemi. Farnaz is deeply involved with the Youth Poet Laureate program. Two of the program's finalists will be reading at the event: Madeline Aliah and Sylvi Kayser.

Finally, we hope for a reprise of a duet performed in 1982 with Stephen Meadows and musician Keith Greeninger.

Come listen to the poets reveal interior parts of their souls in the intimate setting of our garden that holds so much history and heart. Walk around and find the last Pukumani pole standing, artifacts pinned to the walls, and flowers, flowers everywhere. Snacks will be served.

Saturday, June 29th 12:00 – 3:00 at the Alan Chadwick Garden.

by Robin Somers

**Alan Chadwick's favorite poem, "Sonnet 15" by William Shakespeare*



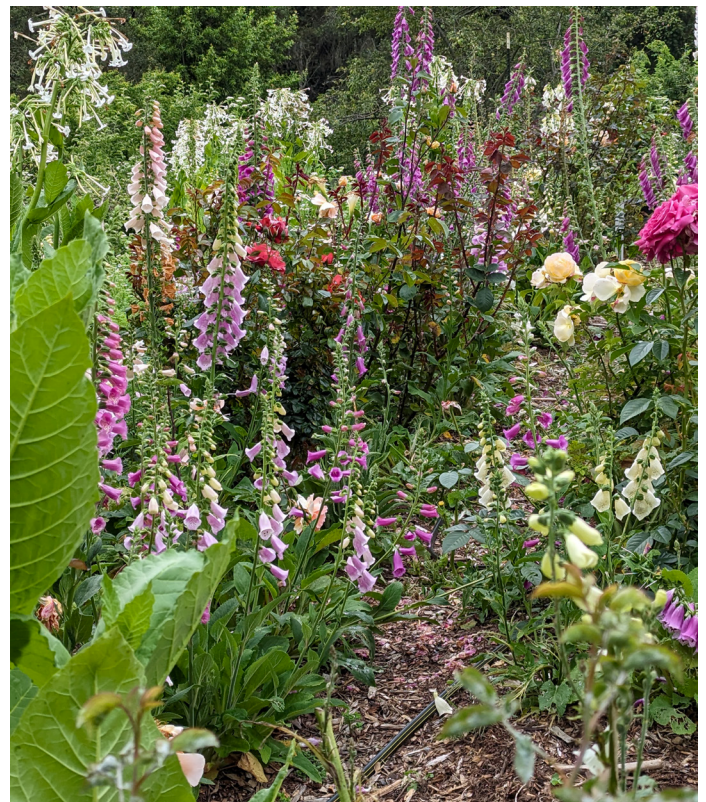
Orin Martin in the Chadwick Garden with the last remaining Pukumani pole carved by Alan Gussow to honor Alan Chadwick after his death.



Candid snapshots of Alan Chadwick, founding gardener.



Original Pukumoni poles in the garden, 1981.



The Chadwick on the morning of 6/10/24.

Student Spotlight: Field Student Managers

Lexi Krauel and Lacey Norris



Lacey Norris (left) and Lexi Krauel (right)

Tell us about your work at the Center for Agroecology.

Lexi: These days I am a student manager at the farm where I am responsible for co-managing the weekly harvest and distribution with Lacey! This entails communicating with campus Basic Needs outlets, creating and executing a harvest plan, delegating tasks to the team, and ensuring we have a successful harvest. Previously, I managed propagation where I orchestrated and executed seed sowings, upkept the greenhouses and made a bi-weekly plan for seeding.

Lacey: I am currently a student manager who co-manages harvest with Lexi! I am responsible for communicating with the Basic Needs outlets and letting them know what we have available for them to distribute. We have two harvest days a week (Monday and Tuesday). During harvest, Lexi and I delegate the tasks to the rest of the team and make sure that everything is going smoothly. Student managers also do some basic tractor work, like tillage and mowing, which has been a super fun skill to learn.

What brought you to the Center?

Lexi: When I first started at the farm, about three and a half years ago, I was just a farm hand. In this role, I wasn't responsible for much other than the task at hand, which for a while was pretty sweet. But after my first year there I felt ready and excited for more responsibilities, so I applied to be a student manager and from then on I've carried a lot of responsibility for the farm's overall

success and day to day flow. It has by far been the most rewarding job of my life. It's taught me more about myself than I could have ever wished and for that I will forever be grateful.

Lacey: I started working at the farm the summer after my first year, so it has been quite the journey to where I am now. When I started at the farm, I had little to no experience and had only completed the online Center for Agroecology internship. Once I started at the farm, I knew immediately it would become a huge part of my college career. I became a student manager after my first full season. It was a great way to take on more responsibility and learn more about the larger-scale organization that it takes to manage a farm.

What about the Center caught your attention?

Lexi: I was introduced to agroecology on Zoom and Damian Parr (Research and Education Coordinator) mentioned the farm was hiring and in that exact moment I applied for the job. I was psyched by the idea of outside time where I could be engaged in my own body and the earth itself. Growing food and being in community!

Lacey: I knew that there was a farm at UCSC but didn't really know how to get involved and when I found out there were internships, (even remote ones) I signed up right away. I didn't realize until later that there is so much more to the Center than just the land-based sites. I have loved to watch the direction of the Center be shifted more towards feeding students through Basic Needs sites and encouraging students to have relationships with the land.

What is a memorable experience you've had here?

Lexi: It's hard to say any one thing! It's been years of incredibly hilarious memories! But one day always comes to mind when I think of a silly farm day. It was two summers ago and so insanely hot, we had a ridiculous amount of cucumbers to harvest, like five wheelbarrows. It genuinely felt endless and the little stickers from the cucumbers kept getting into everyone's hands but it was all just so comical so we couldn't help but giggle. It was honestly just such a moment of exhaustion coupled with hard work and deep team support, in that moment I felt so lucky to be exactly where I was.

Lacey: I think finding my community here and being able to share this experience with them has been one of the most memorable experiences of all of college. I will always remember the days spent harvesting, processing, weeding, eating weird snacks, so many podcasts, and the giggles.

California State Board of Food and Agriculture visits campus



On April 30, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Secretary Karen Ross and members of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture held their April Board meeting at the Hay Barn.

The public meeting began with a department update from Secretary Ross. Stacy Philpott, Faculty Director of the Center for Agroecology, Professor of Environmental Studies, and Executive Associate Dean for the campus's new Agricultural Experiment Station, then shared a presentation on food and agriculture workforce development projects happening at UC Santa Cruz.

These projects include a multi-campus UC partnership to improve and expand undergraduate education in organic agriculture, scholarships to support increased agroecology student retention and preparation for careers in food and agriculture, and a \$10 million United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) NextGen grant to cultivate diverse food and agriculture professionals who are equipped to advance equity in food systems. The Board also learned about the agroecology major, unique among food and agriculture degrees in that it is housed in the Division of Social Sciences.

A central theme to the Center for Agroecology's programming is building a sense of belonging among students, an endeavor that Ross expressed enthusiasm for.

"We have worked hard to create an array of opportunities for our students so that they can choose their own adventure in agroecology research, production agriculture, culinary endeavors, food systems, or community-based service learning," Philpott shared during her presentation.

Philpott also discussed the campus's new Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) designation, a system of campus-based scientists with the mission to develop cutting-edge knowledge and technologies to address agricultural, natural resources, and health issues.

"We're honored to be part of the AES system. Since agriculture has been part of this campus since 1967, it feels very gratifying to be recognized, especially because of our emphasis on social science as it relates to agriculture," Philpott said.

Glenda Humiston, Board member and vice president of the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) thanked Philpott and Division of Social Sciences Dean and UC Santa Cruz AES Dean Katharyne Mitchell for their collaboration with UC ANR as they have been integrating AES into the overall system. UC Santa Cruz currently hosts the first-ever UC ANR assistant Cooperative Extension Specialist devoted to organic agriculture across the state, as well as an assistant Cooperative Extension Specialist focused on agroecology.

The Board shared their enthusiasm for the programs they heard about during the presentation. "I'm impressed with how many students your programs have had an impact on and how many communities across the state you've touched. It's very impressive," shared Board member and Vice President of Agriculture at Lundberg Family Farms Bryce Lundberg.

After presentations about land conservation efforts in Santa Cruz County and beyond from representatives of the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, Elkhorn Slough, and Peninsula Open Space Trust, the visitors were treated to a tour of the UC Santa Cruz Farm, the oldest certified-organic university farm in the nation, led by Center for Agroecology Executive Director Darryl Wong.

During the tour, Wong explained to the visitors the many opportunities available to UC Santa Cruz students to get involved with and inspired by agriculture.

"Maybe some students don't see themselves running a tractor or growing row crops, but they see a project like the Community Herb Garden, where students are connecting with their culture through plants, and want to get involved with that," Wong said "We need to create all these different onramps for students to find themselves in food and agriculture."

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*California State Board of Food and Agriculture Visits
Campus, from page 7*

With the campus's new AES designation, UC Santa Cruz and the Center for Agroecology have seen increased support and collaboration within the UC system and at the state and federal level. One such collaboration is the new USDA Southwest Regional Food Business Center that advances resilient food systems by supporting farmers, ranchers, and other food businesses in accessing new markets and navigating federal, state, and local resources.

"When we first started out, we wanted to prove we could grow food without using chemicals. Now, with the AES designation, it's more important than ever for us to connect the groundbreaking research within the UC system to these questions about sustainable production, and support the communities and the people who grow our food," Wong shared with the group.

Friends Membership Renewals

Need to renew your Friends of the UCSC Farm & Garden membership? You can find renewal information and a secure donation link online at connect.ucsc.edu/joinffg. Contact us at agroecology@ucsc.edu with any questions. Thank you for your support!

Center for Agroecology Students Gain Hands-On Research Experience

The Center for Agroecology is working with UC Davis to expand their SCOPE (Student Collaborative Plant Breeding Education) research to develop crop varieties with natural pest and disease resistance, improved flavor, and higher yield for organic farms in California and beyond.

Emily Esquivel (pictured below) is the project's student research lead, with Field Manager Kirstin Yogg supervising and the Field student team supporting. The students recently sowed tomatoes which will be dry-farmed at the UCSC Farm.

