

Organization Name: UC Cooperative Extension Santa Clara County – Small Farm & Specialty Crops Program

Host: Aparna Gazula, Ph.D., Small Farms & Specialty Crops Farm Advisor, Santa Clara, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties

Organization Description: The UCCE Small Farm and Specialty Crops advisor and program staff assist small-scale and socially disadvantaged farmers to thrive economically through extension support, training, research on specialty crops, and policy communication. Our work supports farmers of a diversity of cultures who operate a wide variety of farming operations, often with limited resources. These include a large population of Chinese and other Southeast Asian immigrant farmers in Santa Clara, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties.

Relevant Links for More Information: <https://www.centralcoastfarms.org>, <https://cesantaclara.ucanr.edu/>, <https://sfp.ucanr.edu/>

Scope of Work/Deliverables:

Learning Agenda

The Intern will:

- Expand their knowledge of topics related to crop production, irrigation management, nutrient management, integrated pest management, soil health.
- Have an opportunity to gain experience in farmer outreach program planning, design, implementation, and evaluation.
- Meet and network with professionals who are working on various aspects of crop production.

Duties

The Intern will help:

- Organize workshops for small farmers, urban farmers, and/or socially disadvantaged farmers
- Assist with field research on climate resilience in agriculture, integrated pest management, irrigation management, nutrient management
- Work with program staff to identify a crop production problem
- Conduct a review to ascertain what has been done to address the problem
- Visit and interview farmers to better understand crop production issues they are facing
- Develop outreach materials, including factsheets, reports, and social media posts.

Internship location/How much of the work is remote versus in-person? In-person, 80 Highland Avenue, Bldg K, San Martin, CA 95046

Pay: \$16.50 per hour (paid as a student worker by Merritt College)

What environmental issues/problems will the work address? The intern has the option to work on a specific project related to either soil health or integrated pest management.

Desired Qualifications:

- Responsible communicator - responds in a timely manner.
- Passionate about farming
- Self-motivated, well-organized, and able to work independently and in teams.
- Have a means of transportation to be able to travel to fields/program locations
- Able to meet in-person, virtual, or a hybrid method - up to the intern and advisor to arrange.
- Show proof of COVID-19 vaccination as required by UC policy to enter UC offices.
- Ability to collect, organize, and analyze data is desired.

Special Requirements (if applicable) (restrictions on age, other forms of identity, ability to lift heavy weight), need for a car, etc): Need a car to drive to farms or grower fields.