

Urban Agriculture Extension in the South Bay

Organization Name: University of California Cooperative Extension - Santa Clara County

Host: Lucy Diekman, Ph.D., Urban Agriculture/Food Systems Advisor, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.

Organization Description: University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) connects California's communities with UC research and education in agriculture, natural resources, nutrition, and youth development to improve the lives of all Californians. My Urban Agriculture and Food System Program focuses on the Silicon Valley region, where I work with community-based organizations, local government agencies, food system networks, and urban farmers and gardeners to strengthen the regional food system and increase the viability of urban agriculture.

Relevant Links for More

Information: <https://cesantaclara.ucanr.edu/>, <https://www.centralcoastfarms.org/>, <https://parks.sccgov.org/santa-clara-county-parks/martial-cottle-park>

Scope of Work/Deliverables: The intern would help with the operation of our urban agriculture/small farms research and demonstration site at Martial Cottle Park in San Jose. Internship tasks would include assisting with bed preparation, planting, cultivation, harvest, pest management, construction projects, landscape projects, operating general machinery (after proper training), and general farm tasks. This is a good opportunity for someone looking to gain experience in small-scale farming practices and management! Additional remote work could include helping us tell the story of our new research and demonstration plot by developing signs as well as website and social media posts.

Internship location/How much of the work is remote versus in-person? This internship is intended to be primarily in-person. In-person work would be done in San Jose at our demonstration site at Martial Cottle Park (5283 Snell Ave., San Jose). The tentative schedule would be to travel to San Jose one day every week. For someone located in or near the San Jose, for whom travel might be easier, the schedule could be several hours a day for 2-3 days/week, instead of one longer day.

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

What environmental issues/problems will the work address? This urban agriculture research and demonstration site is focused on food production in urban environments. Issues we may explore include: benefits of compost application on soil health and carbon sequestration, water conservation, and selecting varieties that are well suited to the local environment. More

broadly, urban agriculture as a form of green space can contribute to cooling, air quality, and biodiversity within cities.

Desired Qualifications:

- Interest in food production.
- Experience with farming or gardening is desired, but not required.
- Interest in public outreach (i.e., sharing information about urban farming and gardening with the public). Good oral and written communication skills.
- Strong problem-solving abilities.

Special Requirements: Transportation to and from the South Bay will be needed. The urban agriculture research and demonstration site has uneven ground (e.g., dirt, gravel, and woodchips), so the intern should feel comfortable moving in that type of environment. Ability to lift up to 50 pounds.