

June 4, 2018

Tradition!
by Summer Brasuel
UCCE Master Gardener and Master Food Preserver
of El Dorado County

Corn dogs, rodeos and rides are all part of America's enduring love for fairs. Fairs have been part of the social fabric of human society throughout the ages and throughout the world. But we Americans, really love our local fairs.

El Dorado County is still an agricultural county dotted with farms and ranches, as well as a strong "homesteader", self-reliant, mindset. Local fairs have traditionally been a source of entertainment, social interaction, and a source for learning new agricultural innovations. Today our fair is still all of those things because our local residents participate. We enjoy the tradition of the fair that embodies our American culture.

Our kids show their livestock, kids and adults show their homemade crafts - quilts, woodworking, fiber arts, paintings, photography, preserved foods, plants, fruits, and vegetables. No matter that many of us were born in other states or even other countries. The fair is for everyone because we all have a love for El Dorado County in common.

The UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County host the horticulture exhibit at the fair. This venue provides an opportunity for home gardeners to share their passion. Bouquets of flowers, garden fruits and vegetables, potted plants, and even dried and silk flower arrangements are entered into our fair.

The UCCE Master Food Preservers of El Dorado County host the preserved foods venue. Here the bounty from our gardens, farms, and ranches are enjoyed through friendly competitions of home canned jams and jellies, pickles, salsas, bbq sauces, and more. Judging Day is open to the public and lots of fun. It is a great way to learn what the judges are looking for then which helps us make better products for our families and loved ones.

The success of our El Dorado County Fair depends on our local residents participation in all the fun contests. Many families have friendly competitions amongst themselves and their friends by entering their crafts in the fair. This passing of tradition from parents to children produces precious memories for all.

Visit the Master Gardeners in the Floriculture Bldg. and the Master Food Preservers in the Marshall Bldg. Enjoy the displays and competitions and visit our information booths.

UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County are available to answer home gardening questions Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to noon, by calling [\(530\) 621-5512](tel:5306215512). Walk-ins are welcome at our office, located at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville. Our demonstration Garden is open on Friday's and Saturday's 9a.m. - Noon throughout the summer. Entry to the garden is free but the college does charge \$2 to park, we're located at 6699 Campus Dr. in Placerville. For more information about our free public education classes, workshops and activities, go to our UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County website

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at <http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu>. Sign up to receive our online notices and e-newsletter at [http://ucanr.edu/master gardener e-news](http://ucanr.edu/master_gardener_e-news). You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram.

UCCE Master Food Preservers are available to answer home food preservation questions; leave a message on our helpline at (530) 621-5506. For more information about our public education classes and activities or to make a donation, go to the UCCE Master Food Preservers of El Dorado County website at <http://ucanr.edu/edmp>. Sign up to receive our E-Newsletter at <http://ucanr.org/mfpnews/>. You can also find us on Facebook