

This year, the Cooperative Extension system is celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For a 100 years, Merced County farmers have produced crops and livestock with the help of Cooperative Extension advisors. You may know us as local 4-H clubs or, nutrition educators or farm advisors, or as Master Gardeners. The reason we live and work in each county so we can understand and address local economic, agricultural, environmental, youth development and nutrition issues.

It was on May 8, 1914, that President Woodrow Wilson signed into law the Smith-Lever Act, which created Cooperative Extension to help farmers, homemakers and youth apply the latest university research to improve their lives.

Three years later a local Extension office and Farm Bureau were organized in Merced County. Since 1917 the County of Merced & UC have been partners in making this happen.

With a raw product value over 3 billion dollars, ag is Merced County's number one industry and collectively, is still the county's largest employer. Our 4-H Program has 16 clubs representing 989 youth and 234 adult volunteers. Thirty-eight Master Gardeners offer information to local gardeners, while nutritionists help us make healthy eating choices.

Bringing scientific knowledge to the taxpayers who put it to use!

We invite you to make the short drive over to the Merced County Spring Fair where we will have a special booth there. Please stop by to say hello. During the day the Master Gardeners will be answering questions. In the evening 4-H volunteers will answer questions about their program.

We will have an "open house" at the Merced Mall from 3:00 to 8:00 on Thursday 8 May. We will have four tables set up: 4-H, Master Gardeners, Nutrition Education and Agriculture. We will have some fun things to do that are interactive and educational.

More information: 209/385-7403 [cemerced.ucanr.edu](http://cemerced.ucanr.edu)