Proposals for handling budget cuts posted online — comments accepted until Sept. 28

The Division has launched a website — http://groups.ucanr.org/directions — where ANR members can read and comment on recommendations issued by the three committees Vice President Gomes appointed earlier this year to explore options for handling the state budget cuts.

The three reports posted on the ANR Future Directions website are: 1) Organizing Cooperative Extension for the Future, 2) Potential Cost-Recovery Programs to Augment Funding for Cooperative Extension, and 3) ANR—An Improved Statewide Organization, focusing on statewide programs and functions.

Bank of America Foundation has contributed $650,000 to complete the endowment for the Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy.

With this gift, the endowment totals more than $1 million, an amount “sufficient to support the forum as it is currently conceived in perpetuity,” said Associate Vice President Henry Vaux Jr. He’s been co-chair of the forum advisory committee since the forum’s inception in 1996 with an initial endowment gift from Bank of America. The forum, typically held in a different country every two years, is co-sponsored by BofA and the University.

“We are deeply grateful to Bank of America and its former chairman Richard Rosenberg for making this unique forum possible and for ensuring that it will become a permanent part of the international waterscape,” Vaux said.

Each edition of the forum will still require about $50,000 in support from the local sponsor, he said.

The forum was established to promote a global dialogue to enhance the environment and economic growth, reduce water-related conflicts and improve water policy in semi-arid regions. Participation in each edition of the forum is limited to 50 of the world’s leading water scholars and managers.

FSNEP celebrates exceptional achievement

The California Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program (http://fsnep.ucdavis.edu) has given awards to 12 staff members for exceptional contributions to the program.

The recipients were honored during a statewide FSNEP conference held Aug. 4-5 in Burlingame. They received their awards from Dennis Stewart, Western Region director of USDA’s Food Stamp Program. The conference theme was “Invigorate! Innovate! Initiate!—Skills for the Future.”

“Our nutrition field staff do an outstanding job,” said Butte advisor Susan Donohoe, chair of the conference planning committee. “We are pleased we had this opportunity to recognize staff for their outstanding network and achievements.” FSNEP EP held the conference to help staff continue developing individual skills, “which, in turn, increases the capacity of the total program,” she said.

The main goal of the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program is to improve the ability of food stamp recipients to select, purchase and prepare healthy and low-cost diets for themselves and their families. In California the program operates through a joint agreement between the USDA, the state Department of Social Services and UC Cooperative Extension. The California program began in 1994 and is now offered in 38 counties.

“The nutrition educators are the heart and soul of FSNEP,” said UC Davis nutrition education specialist and program director Amy Joy.

“Theyir understanding, compassion and creative teaching skills make FSNEP so successful,” she said. “We are glad to be able to recognize these individuals for their continuing dedication to helping others improve their lives.”

FSNEP bestowed awards in three categories, recognizing exceptional performance in creativity and innovation, in leadership, and in collaboration.
At a special meeting Aug. 26 of the President’s Advisory Commission, President Atkinson presented chairman John De Luca with a presidential citation.

The citation was inscribed as follows:

“Over the past quarter century, you have provided unparalleled leadership to the California wine industry in the emergence of the Golden State as an internationally acclaimed premium wine growing region. With excellence as your standard, you have sparked innovation and zealously championed new technologies within the industry. Your insistence that sound science and public accountability be guiding principles for the wine industry was key to the adoption of a pioneering code of sustainable wine growing practices by the state’s vast array of growers and vintners. As an ardent and enthusiastic spokesman for California’s wines, you were instrumental in gaining worldwide recognition of the health benefits of moderate wine consumption. As a distinguished alumnus of the University of California, you have given generously of your time and expertise to your alma mater as a founding member and chairman of the President’s Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

“In recognition of your extraordinary contributions to the California wine industry, your devoted service to the University of California, and your passionate belief in the importance of science and higher education to the future of our state, the University of California presents this citation with admiration, appreciation and warmest good wishes.”

Richard C. Atkinson
President

A surprised De Luca accepted the award on behalf of the entire commission. “This is a tribute to all of us,” said De Luca, executive vice chairman of the Wine Institute.

Atkinson, who will be retiring Oct. 1, thanked all the PAC members for their service over the five years since he formed the commission.

Calling the 25 percent cut to Cooperative Extension in the state budget “stunning,” Atkinson acknowledged the commissioners’ active role in protecting the Division from more sizable cuts.

Rosenberg Forum (from p. 1)

The 2002 forum, held last October in Canberra, Australia, attracted participants from 23 countries. Its theme was innovations in water management. Two potential sites are being considered for the 2004 forum: Ankara, Turkey, and Zurich, Switzerland.

If the forum is held in Ankara, the theme of the discussions will be management of international river basins. If it is held in Zurich, the theme will be management of watersheds and upland areas, Vaux said.

Forum programs, which include tours of local water projects and facilities, are conceived and planned by an international advisory committee co-chaired by Vaux and former BofA senior vice president Fred Cannon.

The first biennial Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy was held in San Francisco in 1997. The second forum was held in 1999 in Barcelona, Spain.

A 2001 forum was to have been held in Ber Sheva, Israel, but security concerns caused it to be rescheduled for the following year and held in Canberra instead.
FSNEP awards (from p. 1)

Creativity/Innovation Awards
- Kathleen Nolan, Adult and Youth FSNEP in Monterey County. In developing the “Community Trainers in Nutrition Network” curriculum to equip extenders, Nolan devised new and culturally appropriate ways to deliver FSNEP nutrition and health messages. The network is a model for counties seeking similar programs. Nolan also started a train-the-trainer program for supervisors of in-home care providers who prepare meals for the elderly.
- Jona Pressman, Youth FSNEP in Butte County. By developing age-appropriate FSNEP materials for lower functioning, special education 7th and 8th graders who are learning independent living skills, she brought the program to new, underserved audiences.

Leadership Awards
- Marisa Neelon, Youth FSNEP in Contra Costa County. Recognized as a leader in nutrition education, Neelon is a mentor called upon extensively to guide new program staff, who often visit her office to glean tips, resources and recruitment strategies and to observe her teach. She also regularly presents workshops to staff at statewide and regional FSNEP conferences.
- Wanda Tapia, Adult and Youth FSNEP in Sonoma County. Tapia was honored for her role in regionwide human resources training and her statewide leadership in planning and education. Her activities include supervising FSNEP staff in three counties, helping develop three hunger reports, and serving for 12 years on the Sonoma County Latino Health Conference planning committee.
- Michele Brown, Adult FSNEP in Alameda County. Brown’s co-workers and many agencies turn to her for her special skills and sensitivity in reaching and conducting successful programs in difficult situations. She is an expert in reaching at-risk families who otherwise would not receive nutrition education or assistance in resource management.
- Tanya Marshall, Youth FSNEP in Shasta County. Due to her leadership, the Shasta County program has rapidly expanded. Marshall has earned the respect of teachers, administrators, community leaders and her peers, offering guidance, practical suggestions and direction to other program representatives and other community nutrition educators.

Collaboration Awards
- Georgia Hall, Adult FSNEP in Solano County. Working closely with state FSNEP, Hall helped pilot and develop new materials. She also worked tirelessly to establish partnerships in her county, where she is well known and admired for her willingness and passion to help food-stamp-eligible people learn about nutrition and food preparation, economics and safety.
- Shauna Cozad, Youth FSNEP in Alameda County. Cozad is helping achieve the goal of a garden in every school, by working with other organizations to assemble the necessary resources, support and expertise. She is a sought-after presenter and very skilled at building non-traditional partnerships.
- Lan Nguyen, Adult FSNEP in Alameda County. Nguyen was honored for her extra outreach efforts and partnerships, which include many agencies serving immigrants and refugees. She plays a key role in a coalition of over 30 agencies and groups that are mounting a countywide food stamp enrollment campaign.
- Rebecca Santibanez, Adult FSNEP in Tulare County. Santibanez has sought out new agencies to work with and she became a partner of a collaboration that coordinates health fairs throughout the county for low-income families. She is an excellent networker, and agencies go out of their way to help her access FSNEP-eligible families.
- Joyce Bishop, Youth FSNEP in San Joaquin County. Bishop has demonstrated noteworthy program promotion through collaborative partnerships with, for example, the county Office of Education and the summer Migrant Education Program. Her collaboration with the public health department resulted in an innovative pilot, “Harvest for Health.” One of her collaborations led to dozens of new teacher recruits and countywide exposure.
- Barbara Bromley-Hall, Youth FSNEP in Riverside County. Bromley-Hall helped write and implement the Alessandro High School National 4-H 2003 Youth in Action/Community Tree Planting Grant. TWIGS curriculum provided gardening lessons and activities to the at-risk students for the gardening project, and was highly rated by teachers and students.
Eunice Williamson retires after 33-year career

Eunice Williamson retired from UC Cooperative Extension on July 1. Her service as an educator, researcher and administrator spanned 33 years.

Williamson joined the University as a 4-H youth advisor in the EFNEP youth program and as a 4-H youth program leader in Riverside County. Later, as family and consumer sciences advisor in Riverside County, she was responsible for all aspects of the home economics program, including adult and youth EFNEP.

In 1991, Williamson was appointed acting county director for UCCE in Riverside. She accepted the permanent position of county director three years later. In the spring of 2002, she became the nutrition, family and consumer sciences advisor in Los Angeles County.

Williamson’s honors included being recognized for the innovative ways she brought nutrition, family and consumer science educational programs to rural and urban families.

Survey reveals ag biotech intellectual property ownership

Public institutions have played a major role in fundamental agricultural biotechnology research during the past two decades. Through a broad-based collaboration, these research institutions will be better able to provide a platform of patented technologies that can be used to develop a generation of new genetically engineered crops, reports a team of UC researchers.

The researchers’ survey of U.S. and international agricultural biotechnology patent ownership appears as a feature article in this month’s issue of the journal Nature Biotechnology.

“The most striking results of the survey are the proportion of ag biotech inventions that come from public-sector inventors and the broad distribution of those inventions across different technology areas important for applying biotechnology to agriculture,” added study co-author Gregory Graff, a research associate in UC Berkeley’s department of agricultural and resource economics. (Excerpt is from a UCOP release of Sept. 9 that can be read in full at http://ucnewswire.org.)

In memoriam: Donald Dahlsten, 69

Donald Lee Dahlsten, a UCB professor of insect biology, died on Sept. 3 after a two-year battle against a rare type of skin cancer. He was 69.

Over the course of his 40-year career, Dahlsten developed a reputation as one of the world’s most respected leaders in biological control, a field that had gained momentum in the 1960s as an alternative to the increasingly ineffective use of chemical pesticides. His research focused on the development of ecologically sensitive methods for controlling insects that feed on trees in forests and in urban environments. Dahlsten may be best known to the general public for his work on psyllid pests, which attack varieties of eucalyptus trees.

In the early 1990s, he found a species of Psyllepagus wasp that effectively killed the blue gum lerp psyllid infesting blue gum eucalyptus trees in nurseries throughout California.

A tree-planting ceremony in his honor and a memorial service will be held on Oct. 12 at UCB. Details about the service and memorial donations will be announced through the College of Natural Resources at http://nature.berkeley.edu. (Excerpt is from a press release by Sarah Yang, UCB Media Relations.)

Kearney REC issues call for project proposals


Proposal forms can be obtained at http://danrec.ucdavis.edu/rec/form/index.html and are due by Nov. 19. They can be submitted electronically to Janel Durn at jdurant@ucdavis.edu.

Kearney has new state-of-the-art greenhouse facilities. Other specialized research support includes a core post-harvest research facility, core sample handling facility (with cold storage and dryers) and assorted laboratories. To learn more about these facilities, contact Laura Van der Staay at 559/646-6030 or lvdstaay@ucdavis.edu.

Located on 330 acres in the San Joaquin Valley, Kearney is suitable for many row/other, tree, and vine crops. If you have questions about field research support, please contact Chuck Boldwyn at 559/646-6020 or cboldwyn@ucdavis.edu.

Other questions can be directed to Superintendent Fred Swanson at 559/646-6060 or fswanson@ucdavis.edu.

ANR REPORT

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