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Listening session reminder

If you haven't signed up for a listening session at one of the five locations — San Luis Obispo, Riverside, Redding, Parlier or Davis — it's not too late. Details about the listening sessions are available on the ANR Web site under "ANR future directions" or at <http://groups.ucanr.org/directions>.

Listening session locations:

Jan. 29 – San Luis Obispo
Main Hall or Right Wing of Veteran's Hall

Feb. 5 – Riverside
Conference Room D in UC Extension Center

Feb. 10 – Redding
Cascade Library Room in the Best Western Motel

Feb. 19 – Parlier
Multipurpose room of Kearney Research and Extension Center

Feb. 26 – UC Davis
Alpha Gamma Rho room in Buehler Alumni Center

Dynes unveils new Web site section

President Dynes has unveiled a new section on his Web site called Dynes' Desk.

"Dynes' Desk, modeled on a similar initiative I began at UC San Diego, is a way for anyone inside or outside the UC community to email me a comment, idea, or perspective on any topic important to them," he wrote in his first newsletter as president. "I'm not able to respond personally in most cases, but I do read all the emails – and in each edition of 'Our University,' I will address subjects of broad University con-

cern and answer a couple of frequently asked questions from the emails I receive."

His Web site is at <http://universityofcalifornia.edu/president/welcome.html>.

The next stops on Dynes' inaugural tour are UC Santa Cruz and Silicon Valley on Jan. 26 and 27.

To see photos of past tour events or to see future destinations, visit <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/president/events.html>.

Moritz joins UCB's College of Natural Resources as nation's first wildland-fire specialist

As part of UC Berkeley's recently expanded research and outreach program on wildland fires, Max Moritz joined the College of Natural Resources on Jan. 1 as the nation's first Cooperative Extension specialist devoted to wildland fire.

Moritz joins the faculty of the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management, and will work closely with the college's Center for Forestry.

Moritz, who earned his Ph.D. in spatial ecology from UC Santa Barbara, wrote his doctoral thesis on the relationships between fire, land management techniques and chaparral vegetation in Los Padres National Forest. He holds a bachelor's degree in management science from UC San Diego and a master's degree in energy & environmental studies from Boston University.

He has broad expertise in fire modeling, fire effects, brushland fire ecosystems and spatial patterns of fire disturbance. In addition to continuing his own fire management and ecology research, Moritz will serve as a link between faculty researchers and county Cooperative Extension advisors. He will also provide direct links with profes-



Max Moritz

sional resource managers, landowners, policy-makers and a diverse array of public and private organizations on issues related to fire.

Before joining UC Cooperative Extension, Moritz was an assistant professor of geography at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

"We already have one of the largest wildland fire programs in the nation. Max adds expertise in shrubland ecology and fire management and helps serve the campus and community with the outreach component of Cooperative Extension," said Rick Standiford, UC Berkeley associate dean for forestry.

Moritz can be reached at (510) 642-7329 and his e-mail address will be mmoritz@nature.berkeley.edu.

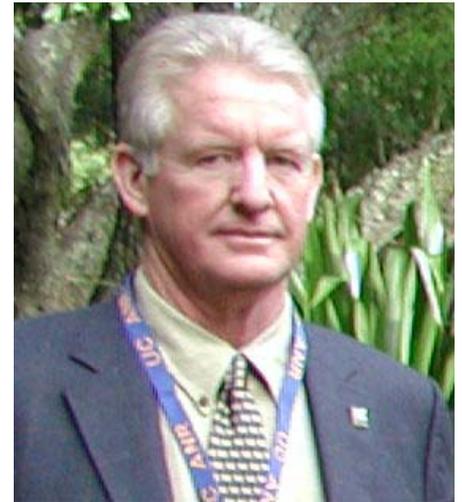
Sierra Foothill REC seeks proposals

The Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center (SFREC) is soliciting proposals for new and continuing research for the upcoming program year, May 1 – April 30.

Proposals are due at SFREC by **March 8**. The center expects to award approximately 4,000 hours of labor to assist continuing and new research projects.

The center comprises 5,721 acres of northern Sierra foothill oak woodland-annual grass rangeland. Several watersheds fall within its boundaries, and the Yuba River flows along the southern edge, offering opportunities for water-quality and riparian-habitat studies. There are 160 acres of irrigated pasture, with a herd of 350 beef cows and 100 yearling calves.

Other resources include a weather station, GIS database, and other long-term databases related to hardwoods and annual rangeland pasture use by cattle; beef cattle fertility, disease and production levels; stream hydrology in managed watersheds; climate and range forage yields. Facilities include a laboratory for chemical and biological analyses, meeting rooms, a 13-bed dormitory and six cattle-working areas. You can download proposal forms (<http://danrec.ucdavis.edu/rec/form/index.html>) or call Chris Feddersen at (530) 639-8800 for more information.



PAC member Ahlem appointed CDFA undersecretary

Gov. Schwarzenegger announced on Jan. 6 the appointment of Charles "Chuck" D. Ahlem as undersecretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Ahlem, a Turlock rancher and founding partner of the Hilmar Cheese Company, has served as a member of the UC President's Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources since its inception in 1998. He is also a member of the Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo Dean's Agricultural Advisory Committee.

From 1996 to 2000 Ahlem served as a board member of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and in 1996 he accompanied then-California Agriculture Secretary Veneman as Dairy Representative on a trade mission to China, Vietnam, Korea and Japan. Since 1994, Ahlem has served as a member of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture. He is also a member of the Western United Dairymen, the California Dairy Council, the USDA Agricultural Trade Policy Committee in addition to being a member and past president of the Merced County Farm Bureau.

"I am honored that Governor Schwarzenegger has asked me to use my background in agricultural education and expertise in ranching and livestock to serve in his administration," Ahlem said in the governor's press release. "I look forward to working together to bring greater vitality to California's economy through agriculture."

ANR members receive plant science award

Bruce Roberts, Kings County director; Rachael Freeman Long, Yolo/Solano counties farm advisor; and Scott Oneto, Natural Resources Program Representative for Amador, Calaveras, and El Dorado counties; along with five other graduate students in the agronomy field, have received the Milton D. and Mary M. Miller Plant Science Award.

The Miller award was established to assist the continuing education of UC Cooperative Extension employees or graduate and undergraduate students with an interest in Cooperative Extension careers.

"This award has helped offset personal expenses associated with my graduate program at UC Davis," said Roberts. "This year's award will see me through the completion of my dissertation. Specifically, my award will be used for student fees, filing for candidacy and traveling from Kings County to Davis to finish my writing."

Long will use the award money to present a paper at the International Congress of Entomology in Brisbane, Australia, in August 2004. While there she will visit colleagues at an Australian Cotton Research Station where she worked while on sabbatical leave in 1999-2000.

Oneto is a graduate student studying weed science under the direction of UCCE weed specialist Joe DiTomaso.

"My research is focusing on developing chemical control strategies for seven noncrop weeds including hedge parsley, tree tobacco, scotch broom, French broom, periwinkle, cape ivy, and houndstongue," Oneto said. "Once I complete my graduate studies, I would like to continue my noxious weed control work for Cooperative Extension in the foothill counties."

In establishing this monetary award, the Millers clearly understood the importance of CE employees staying current in a rapidly changing field of science, in Roberts' opinion.

"The Miller Award has greatly benefited my extension program in Kings County and myself as an individual," Roberts said. "As Cooperative Extension strives to remain vital to the citizens of California, we, as career employees, must constantly update our knowledge base through continuing education. I encourage all my extension colleagues in plant sciences to look into this opportunity. In doing so, we can help accomplish the Miller's vision of advancing the capabilities of Cooperative Extension employees."

10th Annual AgSafe Conference set for Feb. 4 and 5

The 10th Annual AgSafe Conference is scheduled for Feb. 4 and 5. The conference, sponsored by the Farm Safety program, will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Seaside near Monterey Bay.

The event will offer workshops in English and Spanish. Workshops will address topics such as workers' compensation, safety laws and regulations, food safety, dealing with an aging workforce, hazard communication, sessions for supervisors and crew leaders and much more.

Several workshops on pesticide and chemical safety will be offered, including the "Pesticide Train the Trainer for Fieldworkers" class, which will qualify participants to train fieldworkers in pesticide safety as required by the state Department of Pesticide Regulations and federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations. After completing this course, participants are authorized to issue the EPA worker training

verification card ("Blue" card) to workers they have instructed in pesticide safety. In addition, continuing education hours for PCA's, QAL's and QAC's have been requested from the Department of Pesticide Regulations.

On Wednesday, Greg Hale, Chief Safety Officer and Vice President, Safety Accessibility and Advanced Technology for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, is scheduled to provide the morning keynote presentation.

Tabletop displays will feature safety products, services and supplies. A networking reception will round out the evening.

For Thursday, California Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi has been invited to be the morning keynote speaker. Graduates of the California Agricultural Safety Certificate Program will be honored at the luncheon. For more information about the conference, contact AgSafe at (559) 278-4404 or visit their Web site at <http://www.agsafe.org>.

Redwood forest symposium slated for March 15-17

The Redwood Region Forest Science Symposium will be held March 15-17 at the Doubletree Inn in Rohnert Park. The three-day regional science conference, coordinated by the UC Center for Forestry, will explore the conservation, management and planning of California's coastal forests and timberlands.

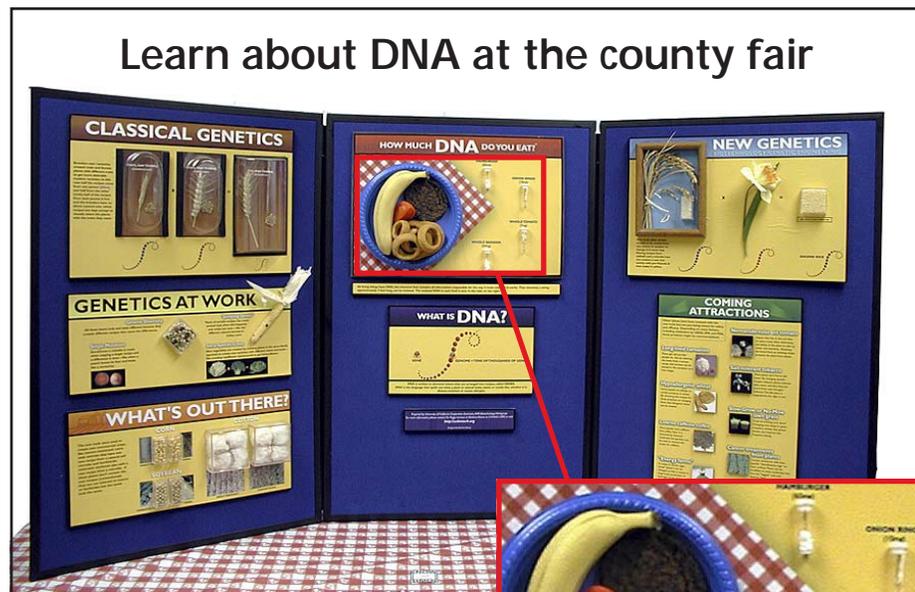
This symposium is intended to promote the dissemination of scientific evidence to managers, policy-makers, other scientists and interested public, and, in turn, to inform policy decisions. The presentations will range from the discussion of recently gathered scientific knowledge to the integration of that knowledge into planning and management processes and tools.

There will be eight general session presentations, 59 concurrent session presentations, and 34 poster presentations, on a wide range of management, ecological, and policy issues affecting forest sustainability in the redwood region.

Registration is \$325 and early registration \$275. The deadline to receive the early registration rate is **Feb. 11**.

A detailed agenda and abstracts of all presentations are available online at <http://nature.berkeley.edu/forestry/redwood>.

Learn about DNA at the county fair



CE biotechnology specialist Peggy G. Lemaux and administrative assistant Barbara Alonso have created a display to educate fairgoers on the genetics behind the way foods have been changed through natural selection and biotechnology. The project started in May 2003 when Santa Barbara County farm advisor, Frank Laemmlen, told Lemaux he had a fair booth and wanted to present something new on genetics. The colorful display contains several modules on topics as varied as "How Much DNA Do You Eat?", "Tour d'Onion" and "The Changing Face of Corn."

The independent modules can be rearranged to suit the educational objectives of a particular audience. The display, which neither advocates nor opposes genetic engineering, is available for advisors to borrow for county functions. For more information, call Alonso at (510) 642-1589.

ANR REPORT

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ANR Report is issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, W.R. Gomes, Director of Cooperative Extension, University of California.

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