ANR reviews under way

As VP Dooley reported in the September town-hall meetings, ANR is in the process of being reviewed to evaluate the quality of its programs, the effectiveness in solving problems, and its collaborations with various groups.

The first-ever review of our Cooperative Extension programs will take place Jan. 11 to 14. Panels of CE specialists, advisors and AES agronomists; meetings with various ANR administrators; and tours of CE projects at the Davis Campus will inform this review. The CE review is being co-chaired by Mike Fitzner, Ph.D., director of the Plant Systems section of USDA CSREES’s Plant and Animal Systems unit; and North Carolina State University Vice Chancellor Jim Zueches. The results of this review will feed directly into a comprehensive review of the entire ANR program by the UCOP Provost’s office.

The Provost Review, which will take place Feb. 8 to 11, is being chaired by Cathy Woteki, Ph.D., of the Mars Corporation. The format of panels and various meetings will be similar to the review of CE.

A self-evaluation document to address the questions posed by the Provost Review has been prepared, and can be viewed online at http://danr.ucop.edu/anr-review/.

The recommendations from both the Cooperative Extension review and Provost Review will be instrumental in ANR’s current strategic planning process.

Taber issues ANR Budget Call for FY09-10

Kay Harrison Taber, assistant VP - Administrative Services, will issue the FY09-10 ANR Budget Call next month. The call will consist of a request for proposals for new CE Specialist positions, a required report on the use of temporary funds awarded for the FY08-09 budget year, and a request for specific carryforward funds.

Program Council will review requests for new Specialist positions in conjunction with a review of currently prioritized proposals for new advisor positions that were considered during the FY08-09 budget cycle but have not been released for recruitment.

This will be the first call for CE Specialists since 2002, as a result of the budget cuts of 2003. This year (FY 2008-09) will be the first year that funds from separations of CE Specialists on the campuses will revert to ANR headquarters in Oakland for reallocation to new positions. Program Council’s recommendations for funding and recruitment of Advisor and Specialist positions will be made to AVP Standiford and VP Dooley with the expectation that decisions will be made in May, based on state budget conditions at that time.

In early January, forms will be e-mailed via the ANR Communications Protocol and posted on the ANR Web site. For more information, contact Donna Jones, Budget Director, at (510) 987-0053 or donna.jones@ucop.edu.

Mark your calendar for ANR Statewide Conference

Colleagues:

The ANR Statewide Conference, “Defining Our Future: Putting Science to Work in an Interconnected World,” will be held in Sacramento on April 27-30. A planning committee composed of representatives from the campuses, counties, statewide programs, and research and extension centers is developing a dynamic program involving UC leaders, external stakeholders, and your colleagues as speakers, panelists, and trainers. UC President Mark Yudof, Regent Fred Ruiz and VP Dooley will open the conference.

This will be your opportunity to meet with your colleagues to discuss the ANR strategic plan and give input on how we can move forward to develop the road map for ANR to achieve its vision for 2025.

An important component to achieving our vision will be advocacy for ANR programs so you will be able to hone your skills in the advocacy training sessions. Also, ANR members will present breakout sessions on ANR programs so all ANR members can understand and advocate for the breadth of ANR programs and their impact on all Californians. You will have the chance to interact with state legislators, legislative staff and other leaders at a reception that will showcase ANR programs and California agricultural products.

Look for the online registration and more details on the agenda in mid-January.

Your participation and engagement can make this conference a success. We hope to see you there.

On behalf of the Planning Committee,
Barbara Allen-Diaz and Bill Frost, co-chairs
Employment opportunities

Imperial County: County and center director/farm advisor

Recruitment is under way for a joint director for UCCE in Imperial County and the Desert Research and Extension Center (DREC). The position is located in El Centro. Deadline to apply is Jan. 23.

The appointment will be a joint director (80%) and program (CE advisor) (20%) assignment. Compensation commensurate with qualifications and experience and includes an annual stipend.

Responsibilities of the center director include 80% administration and 20% academic program activities.

CE and the DREC are responsible for providing opportunities for collaboration, integration and delivery of research and educational programs relevant to Imperial County and the wider region. The County Director is responsible for leadership direction and supervision of the academic and program staff within the county. The Center Director will provide UC researchers and educators with managed and sustainable resources to conduct quality research and education programs on high priority issues. As CE Advisor, the incumbent will maintain an academic program involving applied research and education programs relevant to issues of the county, Center and region.

A minimum of a Master of Science degree in an agricultural, biological, or natural resources science from an accredited college or university is required. A Ph.D. is strongly preferred. Experience in working on and/or managing a research and extension center is highly desired. Demonstrated competence in personnel management and management of budgets and understanding of, and appreciation for, research and extension programs is required. Candidates must be able to communicate clearly, orally and in writing, in order to plan, organize, and coordinate programs effectively; and demonstrate an ability to work closely with Experiment Station and CE personnel, public agencies, industry representatives, grower cooperators, and the public in general.

To view the complete position description for DREC08-01, go to http://ucanr.org/jobdesc/DRECDirector.pdf.

For inquiries, call (530) 752-0128.

Napa County: Viticulture farm advisor

UCCE invites applications from qualified candidates for a career-track position as a viticulture farm advisor. The viticulture farm advisor in Napa County will conduct extension education and problem-solving research programs for the local wine grape industry, and provide information and support to producers of other fruit and nut crops. The primary clientele served by the advisor is the local commercial producers of wine grapes; support is also provided to growers of fruit and nut crops. The close proximity to the UC Davis Viticulture and Enology Department, as well as the Oakville Research facilities offers extraordinary opportunities for a productive research and extension program.

For candidates with a strong interest in administration, there would be an opportunity for the position to include a 30% administrative assignment as Napa County director.

A minimum of a master’s degree with a background in biological, agricultural, or plant sciences, specializing in viticulture and pest management is preferred.

Beginning salary will be in the CE assistant-associate advisor rank, salary commensurate with experience and education.

If the successful candidate is currently a CE advisor, the candidate will be offered the position as a lateral transfer, retaining their current rank, step, salary, and definite or indefinite status.

To view the complete position vacancy for ANCM #08-01, go to http://ucanr.org/jobdesc/NapavitAdvisor.pdf. You can download the academic application form at http://ucanr.org/jobs.cfm.

To request additional information and/or to return completed application materials, contact Pam Tise at pdtise@ucdavis.edu.

To assure full consideration for position ANCM #08-01, application packets must be received by Dec. 18.

Riverside County: Crop production/entomology advisor

Riverside County seeks a career-track crop production/entomology advisor to be headquartered in the Blythe satellite office. For full consideration, application packets must be received by Jan. 15.

The responsibilities of the advisor will be to design and implement an applied research program in crop production and focus on a variety of field and vegetable crops grown in the Palo Verde Valley; contribute to a statewide effort to implement an IPM approach to pest management addressing issues for both irrigation/water and pest management; disseminate information and educational information to various clientele groups, pest control advisers, growers, government agencies, fellow UC personnel and the public; collaborate with fellow farm advisors, UC specialists, and campus-based UC researchers; and publish research-based findings in peer-reviewed articles.

The advisor will work with a broad spectrum of clientele, including large- and small-scale producers, public agencies, agricultural-related businesses, and consumer-oriented groups. The advisor will extend results of research, as well as other pertinent information, in a timely fashion for utilization by producers, pest control advisers, and other groups/individuals.

A minimum of a master’s degree in plant science, entomology, vegetable or agronomic crops production, or a related agricultural field is required. Coursework may include entomology, statistics, soils, irrigation, plant physiology or plant pathology. Experience in conducting applied research and education programs is also required. Experience in crop production is desirable.

Salary is in the CE Assistant rank commensurate with education and relevant experience.

To view the complete vacancy announcement for position ACC-SSO-08-04, go to http://groups.ucanr.org/ccs/files/59125.pdf.

Request an application packet by calling (951) 827-2529 or e-mail ccsracadrecruitment@ucdavis.edu.

Continued on page 3
Sonoma County: County director
UCCE is seeking a director for Sonoma County. The county director position is a 75% administrative assignment with a programmatic assignment of 25% in the discipline of the person selected. The county director is responsible for leadership and supervision of the academic and program staff in the county.

Currently, Sonoma County has 7 CE advisors and 21 other staff positions funded by the county or by UC administered contracts and grants. The programs covered by county advisors include youth development, horticulture, agricultural economics and farm management, ports and watersheds, pest and disease management, water quality and irrigation, ornamentals, turfgrass and landscape, invasive and natural resources.

The county director acts as department head within county government and as liaison with county departments and other public and non-profit agencies to foster understanding and support for the CE program.

A minimum of a master’s degree with a background in a discipline related to the mission of UCCE. Suggested disciplines are nutrition, family and consumer sciences; community development; agricultural sciences; youth development; natural resources; or public policy. Experience with CE county-based programs is preferred. Successful administrative experience must be demonstrated.

Beginning salary will be in the CE Assistant-Associate Advisor rank, salary commensurate with experience and education.

If the successful candidate is currently a CE advisor, the candidate will be offered the position as a lateral transfer, retaining their current rank, step, salary, and definite or indefinite status.

To view the full position vacancy announcement for ANCM #08-02, go to http://ucanr.org/jobs/cfm.

The academic application form in PDF or Word format can be downloaded from http://ucanr.org/jobs.cfm.

To assure full consideration, application packets must be received by Dec. 19. To request additional information, contact Pam Tise at pdtise@ucdavis.edu.

Tehama, Glenn and Colusa counties: Livestock, rangeland and natural resources advisor
UCCE is seeking a career-track academic advisor to conduct a county-based extension, educational and applied research program in livestock management, rangeland and natural resources serving Tehama, Glenn, and Colusa counties (headquartered in Red Bluff). To assure full consideration, application packets must be received by March 6 (open until filled).

These programs will address issues such as watershed management, environmental quality, soil and resource conservation, efficient and sustainable production and marketing of livestock, safe and nutritious food for consumers, and sound stewardship of the natural resources in the range and wildland areas.

A master’s degree in natural resources, animal science, range management, ecology or watershed management, or closely related discipline, is required. Candidates with advanced degrees in other related fields may be considered. The candidate should have a working knowledge of and familiarity with emerging issues in livestock and/or natural resource management. This would include upland watershed management; water quality and downstream pollution (non-source point pollution), production economics of variable production systems, food safety, ranch management (including small producers), watershed restoration, animal health, herd/flock management, exotic species, and knowledge of market development and resource management. Field experience is highly desired, along with demonstrated familiarity in conducting research and educational programs.

Beginning salary will be in the CE Assistant Advisor rank, dependent upon applicable experience and professional qualifications.

If the successful candidate is currently a CE advisor, the candidate will be offered the position as a lateral transfer, retaining their current rank, step, salary, and definite or indefinite status.

The full position announcement for #ACV 08-02 and required academic application form are available at http://ucanr.org/cvjoblisting; or e-mail recruit08-02@uckac.edu.
**UC Davis: Assistant professor in plant sciences/plant biologist**

The UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences is seeking an Assistant Professor in Plant Sciences/Plant Biologist. Review of the applications for this position will begin **Jan. 9**. The position will remain open until filled.

The successful candidate’s research will focus on the biochemical and/or molecular basis of plant biomass production and conversion into biomaterials and/or biofuels. Some key research areas may include but are not limited to (1) enhancement of biomass production by plant species to be cultivated as biofuels feedstocks, (2) modification or altered regulation of lignin and/or polysaccharide biosynthesis, and (3) modification/controlled management of cell wall polymer disassembly using multidisciplinary approaches that include molecular genetics, biochemistry, genomics and/or transgenic technologies.

Many candidates may not have had experience in research that addresses biofuels-related questions, this, in no way, eliminates candidates from consideration. In her/his “statement of research,” each applicant should indicate how prior research experiences have provided a foundation on which a creative and productive program of biofuels research can be based.

A minimum of a Ph.D. or equivalent level of experience in plant biochemistry, biochemistry, or genetics, or related fields is required.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Candidates should begin the application process by registering online at [http://recruitments.plantsciences.ucdavis.edu/](http://recruitments.plantsciences.ucdavis.edu/).


For questions regarding the application process, please e-mail plantsciences@ucdavis.edu.

**IREC calls for proposals**

The Intermountain Research and Extension Center (IREC) in Tulelake is soliciting proposals for new and continuing research projects for calendar year 2009. IREC provides labor, equipment, facilities and technical support to UC academics and personnel from cooperating agencies. Grants of center-provided labor to support approved projects are awarded annually.

IREC is a 140-acre research facility located at 4,000 feet elevation near the Oregon border. The center specializes in potato, small grain, onion, peppermint, forage grasses and alfalfa research; however, most cool season field and vegetable crops can be accommodated and grown on the center.

Main topics of research interest include variety development; weed, insect, and disease control; water management; and plant nutrition. Facilities and equipment include a greenhouse, controlled postharvest facility, drying ovens, an automated potato grading line, a mini-still for essential oil extraction, specialized small plot irrigation equipment, small plot planters and harvesters, and a full line of commercial farm equipment for field and vegetable crop production.

Technical assistance is available for all farming practices, field instrumentation and data collection.

Proposal forms can be obtained from the IREC Web site at [http://groups.ucanr.org/intermountain/Research%5FProposal%5FProcess/](http://groups.ucanr.org/intermountain/Research%5FProposal%5FProcess/). Completed forms are due **Jan. 12** and should be submitted using the Simple Grant System through the ANR Portal.

For more information about research support or facilities, contact IREC director Harry Carlson at (530) 667-2719. For information on electronic submission or forms contact Jennifer Engel at (530) 667-5117.
Hopland REC renews lysimeter

For more than 45 years, the UC Hopland Research and Extension Center (HREC) has maintained a unique research lysimeter facility—a set of 36 to 72 soil columns. The lysimeters are used to measure leaching of compounds such as fertilizers and other plant nutrients as they travel through soil, carried by rainfall. This facility enables scientists to study vegetation and management effects on water flow and quality.

In October, Hopland REC completed renovation of the lysimeter facility. They renewed and re-established 72 soil columns, each contained within 30-gallon steel drum tanks. The rebuilding, which was conducted by HREC staff, began in spring 2008. A dedication was held Nov. 19.

Seventy two 50-gallon tanks were buried into a hillside to ensure natural soil microenvironmental conditions, and plumbed to collect all water passing through the soil.

Most of the $30,000 project was funded by a USDA-CSREES National Research Initiative grant, which was awarded to Valerie Eviner, UC Davis Plant Sciences professor, and Charles Vaughn, a HREC researcher.

For the next few years, Eviner and her students and colleagues will focus on investigating rangeland dynamics and management to maximize forage quantity and quality, as well as soil carbon storage, while minimizing erosion, weeds and nutrient leaching.

The new lysimeter facility will be used to track nitrogen and carbon from plant litter, soil organic matter, and seedling thinning to assess how each of these sources differ in nutrient loss from the system, in the importance of supplying nitrogen to support plant growth, and in their contribution to soil storage of nitrogen and carbon.

Shown here are the lysimeters’ water collectors and water output from the soil profiles.

Nominate outstanding farmers and ag educators for Ilic awards

Nominations are open for the 2009 Pedro Ilic Awards, which will honor a farmer and an educator who are dedicated to small-scale farming.

The awards will be presented at the 2009 California Small Farm Conference, March 1-3 in Sacramento. Each award includes a scholarship to the conference.

Last year’s award winners were Darren Schmall, an agritourism entrepreneur in Madera, and Aziz Baameur, a UCCE farm advisor based in Santa Clara County.

Nominations can be completed online at http://ucanr.org/ilik-award. The deadline for nominations is Jan. 12.

The awards are named for Fresno County small-scale farm advisor Pedro Ilic, whose untimely death in 1994 prompted the UC Small Farm Program to annually honor those who carry out his legacy of personal commitment to small-scale and family farming. Ilic was one of the original advisors when the Small Farm Program was established in 1979.

The annual awards honor an educator and a farmer who embody characteristics that helped make Ilic a success.

Nominations are reviewed by a committee from the UC Small Farm Program and UCCE in Fresno County, as well as associates of Pedro Ilic.

For more information, call (530) 752-8136, e-mail sfcenter@ucdavis.edu or go to www.sfp.ucdavis.edu/awards.

Names in the news

USDA honors ANR researchers for flood-tolerant rice

For their landmark research leading to the development of flood-tolerant rice that can benefit farmers in flood-prone areas worldwide, Julia Bailey-Serres, UC Riverside genetic professor; Pamela Ronald, UC Davis rice geneticist; and David Mackill, a former UC Davis researcher now at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines, were honored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture with the 2008 USDA National Research Initiative Discovery Award.

Gale A. Buchanan, the undersecretary for research education and economics at USDA, and Colien Hefferan, an administrator for the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, presented the awards to Bailey-Serres and her colleagues. VP Dooley also participated in the awards ceremony held at UC Riverside on Dec. 5.

Ronald’s group isolated the rice genomic region that carries the submergence tolerance trait and demonstrated that one of the 13 genes in the region, called Sub1a, confers submergence tolerance. Mackill’s team used this information to precisely transfer Sub1a into popular high-yielding rice varieties of countries in South and Southeast Asia. Bailey-Serres’ team identified and characterized the genes in rice that are responsible for flood tolerance and is leading the work to understand how regulation of the ERF genes control the plant’s complex response to submergence stress.

Postdoctoral researchers Takeshi Fukao (UC Riverside) and Kenong Xu (UC Davis) also contributed to the research.

In November, Bailey-Serres and Ronald met farmers and observed the robustness of the new submergence tolerant rice in farmers’ fields in Bangladesh and India.

Left to right: Daniel Dooley, Colien Hefferan, Julia Bailey-Serres, Pamela Ronald and Gale A. Buchanan.
Phishing scams target UC

Don’t respond to e-mails that claim to be from some UC department, requesting that you submit your username and password. These are classic “phishing” scams. UC has been a big target of these in the past few months, and all it takes is one person’s response to cause thousands of spam e-mails to be sent from their account. A recently compromised account generated so much spam that the entire UC Davis e-mail system was blacklisted by major Internet Service Providers (ISPs) like AOL and AT&T.

Please do everything you can to educate everyone in your department (faculty, staff, students) about phishing scams, and make this as clear as possible:

• No one who has the authority to access the computing accounts or e-mail systems needs anybody’s personal account information to do so.
• There is no “maintenance” or “synchronization” or other process that requires users to submit their account information to anyone.
• UCD IT staff will never ask for a user’s password, in e-mail or on the telephone.
• Every individual has a responsibility to maintain the security of their own account. 

Get your ANR blog stats

A new statistics support package for the ANR Blogs system now allows you to study the usage of your blog. The system uses Google Analytics, a very powerful and cost-free statistics package offered by Google. Smarter Stats, the program used in ANR Site Builder, will not work with the ANR Blogs.

For more information and step-by-step instructions for adding Google Analytics to your blog, see programmer Bryon Noel’s blog posting about Google Analytics at http://ucanr.org/blogs/wat/index.cfm?tagname=Google%20Analytics. You can also contact Noel at (530) 754-3937 or bjnoel@ucdavis.edu, or leave a comment on the blog’s posting.

Check out the Web Action Team Blog (http://ucanr.org/blogs/wat) to stay informed on the most recent online updates and innovations developed at Communication Services.

In memoriam

Sheri Klittich-Johnson

Sheri Klittich-Johnson, UCCE Ventura County academic coordinator emeritus, died in Fillmore after a battle with ovarian cancer and scleroderma on Oct. 20. She was 53.

Born in Tucson, Ariz., and raised in Canoga Park, Klittich-Johnson earned her B.S. in Soil Science from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and an M.S. in Agronomy from the University of Missouri. After college, she worked for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, consulting on irrigation efficiency, erosion control and fire remediation in Ventura County.

In 1994, Klittich-Johnson joined ANR as an academic coordinator in Ventura County. The following year, she became the program administrator for UC Hansen Trust. She was instrumental in the Hansen Trust’s purchase of the 27-acre Faulkner Farm, a National Register of Historic Places demonstration farm near Santa Paula.

Klittich-Johnson was active in the School Garden Network and Agriculture in the Classroom. She was also involved in the Farm to School program, linking local growers with the school lunch program, and in the Ag Futures Alliance, formulating and implementing consensus positions on sustainable agriculture in Ventura County. She retired in 2006 due to her illness.

The UC Hansen Trust has established the Sheri Rudd Klittich Agricultural Literacy and Issues Grant in her honor, and the UC Hansen Trust has dedicated a Faulkner Farm Instructional Barn in her name.

Klittich-Johnson is survived by her husband, Chris Johnson; former husband, Bob Klittich; children Jeff (Luana), Kenny and Kristen Klittich; mother, Virginia Rudd; and brothers Steve, Dan (Amy) and Dale (Stacie) Rudd.

Donations can be made in her memory to the Cancer Hope Foundation, sponsor of Camp Keepsake: http://www.cancerhopefoundation.org.

To access back issues of ANR Report, log on to http://danr.ucop.edu/anr-report/

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