Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a 2008-09 state budget Sept. 23 that includes essentially flat state funding for the UC system and for ANR.

The budget restores nearly $100 million that was proposed to be cut earlier in the budget process. However, because it does not provide funding increases for student enrollment growth or inflation-based cost increases, the 10 UC campuses will still need to reduce expenditures by about $100 million through budget cuts and use of reserves in order to accommodate these rising costs. UC’s Office of the President has taken steps to reduce central office positions and administrative expenditures by more than $20 million, and these savings will be passed along to the campuses.

By keeping the university’s funding flat relative to last year, the budget does not provide the normal state funding for employee compensation increases. The administration and Board of Regents are looking closely at this issue, as well as health insurance costs for 2009, and expect to clarify in the next few weeks what the final state budget dictates in terms of employee compensation and benefits.

For more information about UC’s budget, go to http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/article/18627. More information on the final state budget is available at www.ebudget.ca.gov.

ANR approves 7 positions for recruitment

Barbara Allen-Diaz, assistant vice president – programs, has announced that seven Cooperative Extension positions have been approved for recruitment for 2008-09.

The approved positions are as follows:

- Viticulture advisor – Napa County
- Nutrition, Family and Consumer Sciences advisor – Sonoma County
- Crop Production/Entomology advisor – Riverside County
- Orchard Systems advisor – Tulare County
- Livestock/Natural Resources advisor – Tehama/Glenn/Colusa counties
- County director – Ventura County
- Intermountain Research & Extension Center director (see page 3)

Save the dates April 27-30

Please hold April 27-30 on your calendar for the ANR state-wide conference. UC President Mark Yudof has agreed to give the opening address at “Defining Our Future: Putting Science to Work in an Interconnected World,” which will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento.

We want to engage all ANR members in our strategic planning, advocacy and strategic communication efforts.

This planning activity is unlike any of the past ANR efforts. The strategic plan will be demand-driven, identifying opportunities for ANR to meet future demand in the areas of agriculture, natural resources, human development, and nutrition and health.

At the conference, we will look to the future and begin to develop a roadmap to achieve our strategic vision; enhance and develop our advocacy and strategic communication skills to work with our legislators and local policymakers; and discuss the science behind the issues relevant to California and the world.

It will be a chance to step out of our individual program areas and learn about the breadth of the division so we can better communicate the values of ANR and UC to our broad constituencies. I believe that you will find the program intriguing and I look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Dan Dooley
Vice President
PAC meets Yudof, discusses strategic planning

The President’s Advisory Commission welcomed President Yudof on Oct. 7, the tenth anniversary of the group’s inaugural meeting and its first meeting with UC’s new president.

“This is probably the friendliest audience I’ll see all year,” Yudof quipped after VP Dooley introduced him.

Also attending the meeting were former PAC members Pam Marrone, Richard Rominger, John De Luca and (Regent) Fred Ruiz; UC representatives to the national Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) Michael Mellano and Karen Ross; California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary A.G. Kawamura and UC interim Provost Robert Grey.

Yudof explained that UCOP is being restructured, but assured the commissioners that he supports Dooley’s strategic planning initiative for ANR.

“I worry about a lot of things, but not Dan’s office,” Yudof said. “I’m very pleased with what he’s doing.”

“I take the land-grant mission of California very, very seriously,” he added, noting the historic achievements made by the university and agricultural industry. “It’s important to nurture that land-grant relationship.”

Yudof asked the PAC members to help communicate to other Californians how they benefit from UC even if they don’t have a child enrolled in UC or working for UC. He named medical research breakthroughs, the vibrant agricultural industry, safe food and job creation among the benefits to all Californians.

“UC is your best bet,” Yudof said. “We need many voices out there to make that point. People need to tell their legislators that it is not appropriate to make [budget] cuts at UC.”

Introduction to California agriculture

Dan Sumner, UC Davis professor of agricultural & resource economics and director of the Agricultural Issues Center, provided an overview of California’s nearly $37 billion agricultural industry. He explained that there are about 25 million acres of farm land in the state, including 10 million acres that are irrigated, accounting for 17 percent of the nation’s agricultural production. Sumner named U.S. crops grown commercially only in California: almonds, pistachios, walnuts, figs, kiwi, nectarines, olives, clingstone peaches, plums, prunes, raisins, dates and artichokes.

Three PAC members profiled the contributions and impacts of major California commodities for Yudof. Stuart Woolf, president of Woolf Farming in Huron, discussed processing tomatoes and almonds. Richard Smith, president of Paraiso Vineyards in Soledad, talked about winegrapes and wine. Stan Andre, CEO of the California Milk Advisory Board, said the state’s dairy industry produces 22 percent of the nation’s milk.

ANR making a difference

To demonstrate the breadth of ANR research, development and delivery in addressing California’s critical issues, three UC professors briefed Yudof on their programs.

MRC Greenwood, UC Santa Cruz chancellor emerita and director of the UC Davis Foods for Health Initiative, discussed the role of nutrition research and education in preventing chronic diseases including diabetes, cancer and heart disease. Rob Atwill, CE specialist in the School of Veterinary Medicine and interim director of the Western Institute of Food Safety & Security at UC Davis, described ANR’s multidisciplinary efforts to enhance the safety of California-grown food. Chris Somerville, director of the BP-funded Energy Biosciences Institute at UC Berkeley, explained research now under way into alternative energy sources.

Strategic planning

A special session was held on Oct. 8 with only PAC members to directly engage them in ANR’s strategic planning process.

Regent Ruiz, chair of Dinuba-based Ruiz Foods, and Dooley are co-chairs of ANR’s strategic planning initiative. They explained to the PAC the importance of accountability and securing long-term funding for ANR, and how strategic planning can further those objectives.

Rick Standiford, associate VP, described the process under way to assess what California will look like 20 years from now, what the state’s residents will need from ANR and planning accordingly. Representatives of the five ANR working groups assigned to explore the state’s future structure, agriculture and food systems, health and human nutrition, human development and natural resources identified some of the trends they are studying to forecast future priorities (see strategic planning story page 4).

Standiford then led the PAC members in a roundtable discussion of current and future needs. Dooley closed by asking the commissioners to be directly involved in helping solicit input on the strategic plan from other stakeholders.

The strategic plan final report will be shared with PAC members and the ANR community in April at the ANR statewide meeting.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for April 27-28 in Sacramento to coincide with the ANR statewide meeting.
Employment opportunity

Intermountain Research and Extension Center: Director

The Office of the Vice President-ANR invites applications and nominations for director of the Intermountain Research and Extension Center (IREC). The appointment is for six years, subject to renewal. Compensation will be commensurate with qualifications and experience, and includes an annual stipend. If applicable, the appointee may maintain his/her current ANR academic appointment (0%). The position is located in Tulelake.

IREC is comprised of 140 acres and provides opportunities for research on issues including sustainability and viability of agriculture, food safety, organic production, soil quality, pest management, water quality and air quality. Recent research has been in field and vegetable crops, irrigation systems, water quantity, quality, and distribution, management of fertilizers and pesticides among others. The center currently manages 21 active research projects.

The director provides researchers and educators with managed and sustainable resources to conduct quality research and extension programs. The position provides leadership, direction and oversight to the IREC staff, the financial, business and human resources operations, and long-range planning and development and space planning allocation. It also develops, operates and maintains buildings, grounds, agricultural land, equipment, construction projects, environmental health and safety, and toxic waste management. The director is expected to maintain an active applied research and extension program that fits into the overall center goals and opportunities; plan and conduct research; participate in public outreach and community service activities; and participate in various University committees and task forces.

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. Must be able to communicate clearly, both orally and in writing, in order to plan, organize, and coordinate programs effectively. Demonstrated ability to work closely with Experiment Station and Extension personnel, public agencies, industry representatives, grower cooperators, and the public in general is essential.

Due to the critical nature of this position, successful completion of a background check is required.

To see the complete position description for Job #IREC08-01 and the application process, go to http://ucanr.org/jobs.shtml. To ensure full consideration, review of application packets will begin on Nov. 16, and continue until the position is filled.

Merced County: Adult & youth FSNEP representatives (2 positions)

UCCE Merced County is recruiting two program representatives for the adult and youth Food Stamp nutrition education program. One position is at 40 percent time (#3549-08S) and the other at 100 percent time (#3550-08S). The purpose of these positions is to deliver nutrition education to low-income youth, primarily in schools and adults, primarily parents.

The program representative is responsible for recruiting, training and coordinating nutrition education extenders to utilize nutrition education curriculum with low-income children, with the primary focus in elementary schools and after-school programs. The representative also develops communication and recruitment tools. Coursework or equivalent experience in nutrition or public health, or equivalent experience in applicable community programs is essential. Candidates must have well-developed verbal and written communication skills, organizational and problem-solving skills, and computer skills. They must be able to work independently and as part of a team. They must also be able to travel in the county and provide their own transportation. Bilingual is preferred.

To view the full description for positions #3549-08S and #3550-08S, go to http://ucanr.org/jobs.shtml#cvj. For full consideration, applications must be received no later than Oct. 20. Application forms are available at http://ucanr.org/jobs.shtml.

Call for proposals

Shafter Research & Extension Center

Shafter Research and Extension Center (SREC) is soliciting proposals for new and continuing research projects for 2009. Research proposals involving Pima cotton are especially encouraged. Proposals are due Dec. 5.

SREC is a cotton research facility located on 120 acres in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Field, laboratory and greenhouse space is available for cotton and other field crops. The center provides labor, equipment, facilities and technical support to UC academics and cooperating organizations such as USDA.

For more information, contact Brian Marsh at (661) 868-6210. For proposal forms, contact Ruthie Tafoya at (661) 746-8037. Additional center information and downloadable forms are available at the ANR Research and Extension Centers Website: danrec.ucdavis.edu.

ANR Diversity survey results now online

The ANR Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee has published the results of the ANR cultural diversity survey. UC Riverside Survey Research Center performed the analysis.

From the 2,492 e-mail addresses the survey was sent to, 490 people responded.

“We were pleased that so many ANR members thought diversity is important enough to take the time to fill out the survey,” said Eugene Britt, director of Affirmative Action.

The majority of respondents (72.7% of women and 51.2% of men) expressed a desire for training to learn how to serve diverse clientele. The Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee will use the survey results to develop recommendations for ANR training opportunities.

The 20-page report can be downloaded at http://groups.ucanr.org/anrdiversity/.
ANR’s strategic planning process is under way to forecast major issues that California will face in 2025 and that could be addressed by the Division’s research and extension programs. VP Dooley has charged five working groups with answering this question: How do we position ANR to respond to the needs of the state in keeping California competitive globally in providing safe, nutritious and healthy food and conserving natural and human resources?

The objective of the process is to anticipate the research and extension priorities of California in 20 years and analyze ANR’s current capacity to address them.

“There has been no effort in ANR like this in the past,” says Dooley, who reviewed ANR’s planning over the past 20 years before embarking on what he calls a demand-driven planning process. “The Regents are excited and we have more visibility than before.”

“This should be broader than just ANR,” Dooley says, explaining that ANR needs to integrate more fully with other parts of UC. “If we view ourselves in silo fashion, we become irrelevant to the university. We need to find ways to help everyone in UC understand why what we do is important to the total university.”

Dooley likens this effort to the assessment that Health Affairs undertook a few years ago, which identified California’s medical needs through 2020 and justified funding for significant increases in the number of medical, nursing, veterinary and other health care students enrolled at UC. The forecast also enabled the regents to begin planning and approval for new medical schools at UC Riverside and UC Merced.

The working groups include Future Structure of California, chaired by Tim Paine; Future Ag and Food Systems, chaired by Dan Sumner; Future Natural Resource Systems, chaired by Marylynn Yates; Future Health and Human Nutrition Systems, chaired by Connie Schneider; and Future Human Development, chaired by Richard Enfield.

Rick Standiford, associate VP, and working group chairs presented an overview of the strategic planning process to the President’s Advisory Commission on Oct. 8, then asked for the commissioners to provide input to the planning.

Kerry Tucker, a marketing/public relations consultant and President’s Advisory Commission member, will solicit input from a broader group of stakeholders with whom ANR personnel may not directly interact.

By Dec. 1, the working groups will each prepare a white paper that identifies major issues and how UC might address them.

Program Council will review the white papers and consolidate them into a single report for the steering committee in January. The committee intends to present the UC ANR plan for 2025 to the regents at their May 2009 meeting.

After the report is presented to the regents, ANR will develop a process for making adjustments to put its cutting-edge science and education in place to help address the state’s most pressing challenges. At the ANR statewide conference, all ANR members will be asked for their ideas on how we may address the challenges revealed in the report.

The steering committee is co-chaired by VP Dooley and UC Regent Fred Ruiz. Members include the AES deans, UN Van Allen, UCD CAES, Bennie Osburn, UCD SVM, Keith Gilless, UCB CNR, and Tom Baldwin, UCR CNAS; Jeanette Sutherland, UCCE Fresno County CD; Steve Beckwith, UC VP Research and Graduate Studies; Bob Grey, UC interim provost; Rich Rominger, Yolo County grower, former UC regent, former USDA deputy secretary, and former director of the CDFA; and Stuart Woolf, Fresno County grower and chair of the President’s Advisory Commission.

Local Food Systems Symposium set for Dec. 2-3

The Local Food Systems Symposium will be held Dec. 2 and 3 at UC Davis Buehler Alumni Center.

The event is sponsored by the Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program (SAREP), UC Davis Agricultural Sustainability Institute (ASI) and ANR’s North Coast and Mountain Region.

In 2006 and 2007, SAREP funded new regional food systems projects throughout California. These innovative projects shed light on new ways to form partnerships and marketing opportunities between consumers, distributors and producers in rural and urban areas.

Cooperative Extension personnel, researchers, administrators, government agencies, nonprofits, farmers and community participants are invited to learn together from these and other food systems efforts. Participants will:

• Learn about new county and regional food systems activities,
• Share and discuss lessons learned, challenges overcome and tools developed by these and other food systems enterprises,
• Share ideas about how to increase the effectiveness or expand these initiatives,
• Share insights across disciplines and between university and community partners,
• Share ideas about improving future SAREP-funded competitive grants programs in local food systems,
• Network with colleagues and new acquaintances.

The Local Food Systems Symposium will begin at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 2, and conclude at 4 p.m. Dec. 3. An inspirational keynote speaker will help set the stage for the event. The conference will include panel presentations, smaller break-out groups and time for networking. Local food will be served.

A preliminary program and registration form is available on the symposium Web site: http://sarep.ucdavis.edu/cdpp/1fs08. If you’d like to be included on the mailing list now, e-mail Gail Feenstra, SAREP food systems analyst, at gwfeenstra@ucdavis.edu.
Remote desktop—Connecting to your office computer from elsewhere

Staff at 36 UCCE county offices and REC's and at another eight ANR offices at UC Davis now have the capability to securely access their work computers from home or anywhere else. “Remote desktop” uses a secure VPN tunnel to allow you to access all of the files and programs on your work computer from any other desktop. If your office has this capability you will find a link in your ANR Portal under “Office Network Information” called “Remote Desktop,” on the right-hand side of the portal. The link includes all the information you need to set up this access for yourself. However, it is only available in offices whose networks Communication Services manages and who have certain routers. If you have any questions about this remote desktop access contact James Bai at jbai@ucdavis.ed or Claudia Myers at camyers@ucdavis.ed.

Site Builder has a new feature

Are you looking for a way to get new content on your Web site’s home page? One way is to add blogs. These blogs can be ones you create or any from the ANR Blog System. To add blogs to your site, enter Site Builder and go to “Edit Home Page.” There you will find the right-hand column contains several options. Scroll down to “Blog Options.” Check the box about displaying blogs and type in a title for your blog column on your home page. You will see a link called “Manage.” There you may select any of the ANR blogs you want to include on your home page. “Save” and “re-publish” your site, and you’re done. The latest postings for the blogs you have selected will appear each time one is updated. As an example, visit the Communication Services Web site at http://anrcs.ucdavis.edu and look at the right column. For more information about Site Builder features contact Dave Krause at djkrause@ucdavis.edu. For questions about the ANR blog system, contact Bryon Noel at bjnoel@ucdavis.edu or Mike Poe at mlpoe@ucdavis.edu.

A first step toward a public repository

The ANR Repository has both an internal and an external face. The internal side has over 42,000 assets in the form of photographs, documents, videos, and PowerPoint presentations. The public side has fewer than 400 assets, and most of those are known as 8000s, the ANR Catalog designation for peer-reviewed publications that are free to the public. But in the coming months, this public window will grow as more files are added. All ANR faculty and staff have the ability to upload files into the Repository. The help files in the Repository explain how to do it. The internal access is provided through your ANR Portal. The public can access the ANR Repository via this link: http://ucanr.org/repository.

Money Talks wins national award

The Money Talks project has won the Dean Don Felker Money Management Award from the National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences. The award is given to extension family and consumer sciences educators who have developed an outstanding educational program on some aspect of family financial management.

From money personality to credit, Money Talks increases teen financial literacy. Based on teen feedback, this interactive curriculum engages teens to explore, learn and apply valuable financial life skills. It is comprised of fun and interactive teen guides, leader’s guides, the Web site http://moneytalks4teens.org and videos that allow teens to explore, learn and apply valuable financial life skills.

Karen Varcoe, UC Riverside consumer economics specialist, accepted the national award on behalf of the Money Talks Workgroup at the Galaxy III Conference in Indianapolis on Sept. 18. The workgroup is comprised of Varcoe, Patti Wooten-Swanson, San Diego County nutrition, family and consumer sciences advisor; Shirley Peterson, San Luis Obispo County nutrition, family and consumer sciences advisor; Margaret Johns, Kern County nutrition, family and consumer sciences advisor; Keith Nathaniel, Los Angeles County 4-H youth development advisor; Charles Go, Alameda County 4-H youth development advisor; Myriam Grajales-Hall, manager of News & Information Outreach in Spanish; and administrative staff members Katie Breyer, Connie Costello and Cheryl Frazer.

Slides posted from food prices symposium

Farm commodity prices, like oil prices, have begun to fall in recent weeks, but prices of several commodities broke record highs during the summer. To show the confluence of factors driving food prices, a symposium was hosted by the Giannini Foundation. Agricultural economists from UC Berkeley and UC Davis spoke.

To see the slides from “Causes and Consequences of the Food Price Crisis,” go to http://are.berkeley.edu/foodcrisis/.

Aguiar accepted into Ag Leadership Program

Jose Aguiar, Riverside County vegetable crops farm advisor, has been named a member of the Class 39 of the California Agricultural Leadership Program. Aguiar joins 24 other emerging agricultural leaders for the prestigious two-year program.

— continued on page 6
He is a board member of the California Hispanic Association of Professionals in Agriculture and the Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District.

“From every standpoint of measurement, these 25 men and women represent the diversity of our state and our industry; possess a deep passion for and commitment to agriculture; and cherish the values of family, freedom and entrepreneurship,” said Michael Barr, California Agricultural Leadership Foundation president/CEO.

Eta Takele, UCCE Riverside County director, graduated with Class 37 from the program this year.

The program is sponsored by the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation.

**George shares CSREES Partnership Award**

Holly George, Plumas County livestock and natural resources advisor and county director, is one of the recipients of the CSREES Partnership Award for Multistate Efforts. George is a collaborator in Cooperative Extension’s “Living on the Land: Stewardship for Small Acreages” program.

In 2001, team members from eight western states developed a curriculum that offers information that small landowners (less than 40 acres) need. New owners often have little experience in land stewardship, resulting in a growing demand for information and technical assistance to help them “do the right thing” for wildlife, land and water resources.

The team will be recognized at the annual CSREES Day of Appreciation in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 21.

**Retirement**

**Linda Garcia**

Linda Garcia, the UCCE Sonoma County director who spent her career helping low-income Sonoma County residents eat better, retired Sept. 30.

Garcia discovered that the Northern California locale known for its beautiful surroundings, upscale restaurants and world-class wineries also had children going to bed hungry. The astonishing results of Garcia’s research project on hunger, conducted in 1983, received national attention. Her research was replicated in 16 California counties in the 1980s and 1990s.

Garcia was invited to speak to a congressional subcommittee on hunger in Washington, D.C. The exposure of hunger in affluent Sonoma County sparked a community effort to coordinate local food pantry services. That effort led to forming the Redwood Empire Food Bank, which serves 50,000 residents monthly.

Garcia earned a bachelor’s degree in nutrition at UC Berkeley and a master’s degree in nutrition education at California State University, San Francisco. She worked for the USDA’s Women, Infants and Children nutrition program before being hired to work alongside UC Berkeley nutrition researcher and educator Joanne Ikeda in 1974.

In 1979, Garcia became the home economics advisor for Sonoma County. In 1999, she was promoted to county director, but maintained her nutrition, family and consumer sciences duties. During her tenure as county director, the CE staff relocated to a new building, its county budget grew from $400,000 annually to $1.5 million, and county staff was added for field assistance and the 4-H program.

In lieu of retirement gifts, she asked for donations to a scholarship fund managed by the Sonoma County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The scholarship, which to date tops $1,000, will be awarded to a college-bound student in June.

Garcia has received emeritus status and will continue volunteer work, including presenting a food preservation course for the UC Master Gardener program. She also plans yoga, bike riding and reading during retirement.

— Jeannette Warnert