

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

ANR New Academic Hires

New Hires FY 2012-13

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Oli Bachie, Ph.D.

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in Imperial, Riverside & San Diego Counties

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Biography:

Dr. Oli Bachie joined UCCE on December 3, 2012 as agronomy advisor. Bachie's research will focus on crops such as alfalfa, wheat, sudangrass, bermudagrass, kleingrass, cotton, sugarbeet and bio-energy crops.

Education:

Bachie holds a B.S. in Plant Sciences from Alamaya University (Ethiopia), an M.S. in Weed Sciences from the University of the Philippines, and an M.S. in Forestry from the University of Toronto (Canada). He recently earned his Ph.D. in Plant Biology at UC Riverside and worked as an assistant research specialist in the UC Riverside Department of Nematology. His dissertation research explored alternative and ecologically desirable multipest – such as insects, nematodes and weeds – management strategies.

Experience:

Bachie has worked as a grower for Toronto urban forestry, graduate researcher at the University of Toronto and adjunct professor, network administrator and research specialist at National University, American University and San Diego State Universities, respectively. Prior to moving to North America, Bachie worked at the Ministry of Agriculture in Ethiopia as an expert in crop production, crop protection and weed management.

Specialty:

- Bilingual in language(s) other than English: Afaan oromo and Amharic
- Field crops and their production

Areas of Expertise:

- Field Crops - General
- Sugar Beets
- Forage Crops - General
- Alfalfa
- Hay
- Forage Crops - Other
- Cotton
- Grains
- Grains - General
- Barley
- Wheat
- Sorghum, Grain
- Plant Management Systems
- Basic Plant Biology
- Weeds Affecting Plants

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://ceimperial.ucanr.edu/>

Rob Bennaton

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor for the Bay Area & Director of Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

Alameda County Cooperative Extension
1131 Harbor Bay Parkway, 1st Floor
Alameda, CA 94502
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Photo by Chelsea Davis

Biography:

Rob Bennaton joined UCCE on September 4, 2013 as the Bay Area urban agriculture advisor and director of Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Education:

Bennaton earned a B.S. in Biological Sciences and Economics from Fordham University and an M.S. in City and Regional Planning from Pratt Institute with a focus on Community Development and Environmental Planning. He also holds two certificates in Commercial Horticulture in Landscape Management and Plant Production and is a Horticultural Therapy Certificate Candidate.

Experience:

Bennaton has over 18 years of experience in horticulture/community development, habitat restoration and youth programming. Prior to UCCE, he was a Community Coordinator at the NYC Housing Authority’s Garden and Greening Program where he increased program participation to over 3000 members supporting 743 gardens citywide, leveraged >\$4.5 million in-kind resources, and spearheaded the installation of NYCHA’s first rainwater harvesting system. Previously, Bennaton worked as a Forester for NY’s Department of Parks and Recreation on frontline ecological restoration of the Bronx River and local deciduous forests. Working with various non-profits, he has also taught youth/adult staff/volunteers stream bank/forest restoration, led AmeriCorps teams in organic vegetable production for donation to the homeless/AIDS patients and managed a farmer’s market. He also spent 16 years supervising programming and staff on weekends at an interactive organic children’s farm called the Howell Family Garden at the NY Botanical Garden.

Specialty:

- Group Participatory Design in Open Space Development
- Small Scale Food Production and Soil Quality/Resource Management
- Urban Habitat Restoration and Community Forestry
- Urban Community Development & Environmental Planning
- Community Environmental Projects Management including Environmental Education
- Soil Erosion Control & Compost Systems Management
- Horticultural Therapy, Landscape Management and Plant Production

Areas of Expertise:

- Urban Agriculture/Local and Regional Food Systems
- Languages Spoken: Spanish

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://cealameda.ucanr.edu/>

Dustin Blakey

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor & Director in Inyo & Mono Counties

Inyo-Mono Counties Farm Advisor's Office
207 West South Street
Bishop, CA 93514
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dwblakey@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dustin Blakey joined UCCE on December 3, 2012 as farm advisor and director.

Education:

Blakey earned a B.S. in Plant Science from UC Davis and M.S. in Horticulture from University of Arkansas.

Experience:

Blakey worked as a Cooperative Extension Agent for the University of Arkansas from 2002 to 2012. Based in Sebastian County, he oversaw the Master Gardener program and focused on urban horticulture, pesticides and fire ant management, as well as administered the county offices and 4-H program. In 1999 and 2000, the Lake County native worked with pears and apples as a pomology research associate with Rachel Elkins, UCCE advisor in Lake and Mendocino counties. He also has worked in retail and wholesale greenhouse production.

Specialty:

- Vertebrate Pest Control in Landscapes (Primarily Moles and Pocket Gophers)
- Raised Bed Gardening and Season Extension
- Urban Horticulture
- Cold-climate Fig Production

Areas of Expertise:

- Fruit Crops - General
- Ornamentals/Landscape/Turf - General
- Landscape - General
- Trees - Ornamental/Landscape/Shade
- Basic Plant Biology
- Vertebrates, Mollusks, and Other (Non Arthropod, Pathogen, Nematode, Weed) Pests
- Urban Agriculture/Local and Regional Food Systems
- Master Gardeners

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://ceinyo-mono.ucanr.edu>

Twitter: @dw_blakey

Virginia Bolshakova, MEd, Ph.D.

*UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in San Mateo County & the Bay Area
& Director of San Mateo-San Francisco Counties & Elkus Ranch*

Cooperative Extension San Mateo-San Francisco Counties

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Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

(650) 726-9059

vbolshakova@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Virginia Bolshakova joined UCCE on September 9, 2013 as area 4-H youth development advisor and director. Bolshakova was born and raised on a 450-acre pig and crop farm in southwestern Michigan where her parents still work with the land to this day. During these years living with her family on the farm, she learned about nature while her passion for people and the environment was nurtured as well as a keen awareness of the interdependency between people and nature was understood.

Education:

Bolshakova earned a Ph.D. in Ecology from Utah State University, a M.Ed. in Science Curriculum and Instruction from University of Toledo, and a B.S. in Biology with a Teaching Composite from State University of New York at Buffalo and Utah State University.

Experience:

For her dissertation, Bolshakova examined how climate and weather can impact an irruptive insect (the sagebrush defoliator; *Aroga websteri* Clarke) capable of wide-spread destruction on rangelands as well as how biodiversity (parasitoids and nectar resources) in an ecosystem can make communities more resilient to major disturbances, such as insect outbreaks. Her master's research focused on teacher and student interactions in the urban science classroom, particularly, examining how teacher practices impact students' self-efficacy or measurement of one's ability (self-awareness) to complete tasks and reach goals in science related activities. This research afforded her to work with urban middle school kids as a science teacher and educational specialist. Bolshakova's passion is to raise engagement of youth and communities in the scientific process, particularly to gain greater awareness of human and environmental connections as well as to strengthen the decision making process.

Specialty:

- Insect Ecology and Self-efficacy in STEM Pursuits

Areas of Expertise:

- Honey Bees, Honey and Bee Products
- Beneficial Insects - Other Range
- Biological Control of Pests Affecting Plants
- Integrated Pest Management Systems
- Beneficial Insects
- Program and Project Design, and Statistics
- Communication, Education, and Information Delivery
- Youth Development
- Weather and Climate
- Conservation of Biological Diversity
- Harnessing Ecosystem Services
- Youth Development
 - 4-H Program
 - SET
- Organic
- Small Farms
- Sustainable Natural Ecosystems
- Science Literacy in Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Nutrition
- Sustainable Food Systems

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://cesanmateo.ucanr.edu>

www.facebook.com/elkusranch

<http://ucanr.edu/blogs/insectconnections>

Gurreet Brar, Ph.D.

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in Fresno & Madera Counties

Cooperative Extension Fresno County

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(559) 241-7515/ (559) 241-7526

gurbrar@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Gurreet Brar joined UCCE on January 7, 2013 as pomology and nut crop advisor. He was born and raised in Punjab (in North India), the cradle of one of the oldest agricultural settlements, which is now better known as the breadbasket of India. Brar himself grew up in a farming family and developed a deep affection for the land and the crops early on.

Education:

Brar earned a B.S. in Agriculture and an M.S. in Pomology, both from Punjab Agricultural University, and a Ph.D. in Horticultural Sciences from the University of Florida.

Experience:

Brar has worked in area of tree physiology for most of his career. He did research in nutrient removal in pear during his Masters program. He worked for a year for Pepsi Foods India, managing the company's contract farming program and then managing greenhouse grown containerized citrus nursery for company's imported citrus budwood program. While working for Pepsi, he wrote a book about the successes of small-scale farmers he met. Later, Brar was a research fellow in the Punjab Agricultural University, studying irrigation scheduling in tree fruits and uses of agricultural waste in forestry, for three years.

Specialty:

- Bilingual in language(s) other than English: Punjabi, Hindi and Urdu
- Translation to and from any language listed above.
- Photography and videography for ag extension purposes.
- Plant Growth Regulation
- Growth chambers and controlled environments

Areas of Expertise:

- Nut Crops
 - Almonds
 - Pistachios
 - Walnuts
- Plant Biological Efficiency and Abiotic Stresses Affecting Plants
- Basic Plant Biology

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://cefresno.ucanr.edu>

Lyn (Rebecca) Brock, MA, RD

*UC Cooperative Extension Academic Coordinator of the UC
Nutrition Education Professional Development Program*

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rlbrock@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Lyn (Rebecca) Brock joined UCCE on November 13, 2012 as the statewide nutrition education professional development coordinator. Brock will provide overall direction to the UCCE Nutrition Education Programs to coordinate and evaluate the training and professional development programs for nutrition-related competencies, including Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and UC CalFresh Nutrition Education Program.

Education:

Brock earned a B.S. in dietetics from UC Davis and an M.A. in education, with an emphasis in multilingual/multicultural education, from CSU Stanislaus. She has been a Registered Dietitian since 1985.

Experience:

From 2004 until joining UCCE, Brock was an adjunct professor of nutrition at American River College in Sacramento and at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton since 2005. She worked as a dietary consultant, location manager and clinical dietitian at health care facilities from 1985 to 2002.

Specialty:

Areas of Expertise:

- Nutrition Education

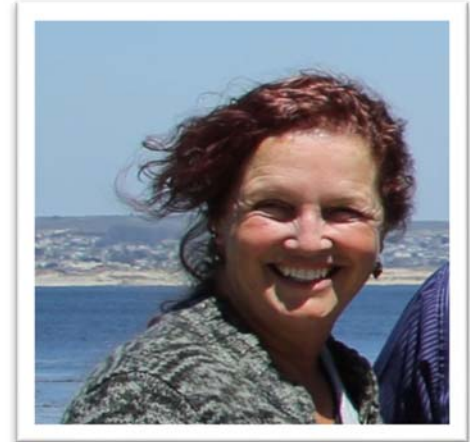
Web/Social Media Site:

<http://cesanjoaquin.ucanr.edu>

Sandra Derby

*UC Agriculture & Natural Resources Academic Coordinator
for the California Project Learning Tree Program*

Youth, Families and Communities Statewide Program
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stderby@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Sandra Derby joined UC ANR on April 15, 2013 as a new academic coordinator within the Youth, Families, and Communities Initiative. Acting as CA Project Learning Tree State Coordinator, Sandra will be working to support the initiatives goals. PLT is an international, award-winning environmental education program created 35 years ago that is designed for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12. Mike De Lasaux, the UCCE advisor in Plumas and Sierra counties for natural resources, is the principal investigator for this grant-funded project with CAL FIRE. For the past 28 years, California PLT has been a CAL FIRE program. UCCE PLT will be housed in ANR’s Youth, Families and Communities program, enabling Sandra to connect and collaborate with Youth Development advisors and specialists. It is also expected that Sandra will develop collaborations with the Research and Extension Centers, UC education departments and UC Natural Reserve System sites.

Education:

Derby earned a B.A. in Environmental Studies/Biology from UC Santa Cruz and a M.S. in Ecological Teaching and Learning from Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass.

Experience:

Derby worked 10 years as a science resource teacher and has worked for the past 15 years in non-formal inquiry-based science education as the environmental education manager and BioSITE (Students Investigating Their Environment) program director for Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose. She has focused her years of experience on creating innovative environmental education curricula and programs while building effective partnerships sharing the vision of high quality ecological learning for all students.

Specialty:

- Trainer for Salmon and Trout Education Program
- Participant in the Bay Area Environmental Education Evaluation Peer Cluster
- Board member of California Environmental Education Foundation

Areas of Expertise:

- Conservation and Efficient Use of Water
- Watershed Protection and Management
- Youth Development
- Community Development
- SET
- Sustainable Natural Ecosystems
- Healthy Families and Communities

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://www.plt.org>
http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_teacherstools_plt.php

Ryan DeSantis, Ph.D.

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in Shasta, Trinity & Siskiyou Counties

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rdesantis@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Ryan DeSantis joined UCCE on November 30, 2012 as forestry and natural resources advisor.

Education:

DeSantis earned a Ph.D. in Natural Resource Ecology and Management from Oklahoma State University, an M.S. in Applied Ecology from Michigan Technological University, and a B.S. in Forestry from the University of New Hampshire.

Experience:

Before joining UCCE, DeSantis was a postdoctoral research associate with the University of Missouri Department of Forestry at the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station in Saint Paul, Minnesota. His graduate and postdoctoral research focused on factors that affect forest stand structure and composition, such as fire, insects and climate.

Specialty:

- Disturbance Ecology
- Fire
- Dendrochronology
- Oak Ecology
- Pine Ecology
- Entomology

Areas of Expertise:

- Hardwoods
- Softwoods / Conifers
- Insects, Mites, and Other Arthropods Affecting Plants
- Hazards To Human Health and Safety
- Conservation of Biological Diversity
- Hardwood Rangelands
- Invasives
- Sustainable Natural Ecosystems
- Endemic and Invasive Pests and Diseases
- Science Literacy in Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Nutrition

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://ceshasta.ucanr.edu>
<http://ucanr.org/sites/forestry>

Dorina M. Espinoza, Ph.D.

*UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in Humboldt, Del Norte,
Lake & Mendocino Counties*

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5630 South Broadway
Eureka, CA 95503-6998
(707) 445-7351
dmespinoza@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Dorina Espinoza joined UCCE on January 9, 2012 as the Youth, Families and Communities advisor. She will be conducting research and outreach in nutrition, food security, youth development, and youth development in vulnerable populations.

Education:

Espinoza earned a Ph.D. in Kinesiology, Exercise Science and Policy Analysis, an M.S. in Physical Education and Exercise Science from Michigan State, and a B.S. in Physical Education from CSU Northridge.

Experience:

Before joining UCCE, Espinoza worked as a health education specialist for the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, she has taught undergraduate Kinesiology courses at Humboldt State University and Sonoma State University and served as a program evaluator for projects at Humboldt State University. From 1992 to 2006, Espinoza did research on elementary school physical education programs and taught courses at Michigan State University. She also has experience teaching high school math and providing instructional support for teachers.

Specialty:

- Quantitative Research: Experimental Design and Single and Multiple Factor Analysis
- Qualitative Research
- Program Evaluation: Formative and Summative

Areas of Expertise:

- Urban Agriculture/Local and Regional Food Systems
- 4-H Program
- Healthy Families and Communities

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://cehumboldt.ucanr.edu>

Jim Farrar, Ph.D.

UC Agriculture & Natural Resources Director of the Western IPM Center

Western IPM Center
2801 Second Street
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(530) 750-1271
jjfarrar@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Jim Farrar joined UC ANR on December 17, 2012 as director of the Western IPM Center. The Western IPM Center addresses the needs of pest management stakeholders in 13 western states and the Pacific territories. Reporting to the director of the UC Statewide IPM Program, Farrar will collaborate with state, regional and national groups with similar interests to promote IPM; participate in national IPM Center and USDA planning; and prepare data and reports for USDA and U.S. EPA.

Education:

Farrar earned a B.S. in plant pathology at University of Wisconsin, Madison, an M.S. in plant pathology at UC Davis and Ph.D. in botany at UW Madison.

Experience:

Farrar was a professor of plant pathology at California State University Fresno from 2000. At Fresno State, Farrar served as chair of the Department of Plant Science for four years and as interim chair of the Department of Food Science and Nutrition for a year. Prior to joining Fresno State, Farrar was assistant professor in the Department of Botany at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, and a visiting post-doc scholar in the Department of Plant Pathology at UC Davis.

Specialty:

- Safe and Secure Food Systems

Areas of Expertise:

- Basic Plant Biology
- Plant Commodities and Production – General
- Pathogens and Nematodes Affecting Plants
- Vegetable Crops – General
- Carrots
- Endemic and Invasive Pests and Diseases

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://www.wripmc.org>

<http://www.wrpmc.ucdavis.edu>

Blog: IPMWest

Twitter: @IPMWest

Julie Finzel

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in Kern, Tulare & Kings Counties

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Bakersfield, CA 93307
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jafinzel@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Julie Finzel joined UCCE on February 6, 2012 as the livestock and natural resources advisor.

Education:

Finzel earned a B.S. in Animal Science from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and an M.S. in Rangeland Ecology and Management from the University of Idaho.

Experience:

While growing up in the Los Angeles area, Finzel visited and worked at her family's cattle ranch, located outside of Bishop, CA. She has worked as a natural resources specialist monitoring and managing endangered plant and avian species for the Navy. Most recently she worked for USDA-ARS as a rangeland research technician in Reno, Nevada collecting and analyzing leaf area index data, cover data, and production data in desert shrub ecosystems.

Specialty:

- Beef Cattle
- Rangeland Ecology and Management

Areas of Expertise:

- Animal Commodities and Products - General
- Range

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://cekern.ucanr.edu/Livestock/>

Lisa Fischer

*UC Agriculture & Natural Resources Associate Director of the
Research & Extension Center System (RECS)*

UC ANR Research and Extension Center System

2801 Second Street

Davis, CA 95618-7774

(530) 750-1287

lmfischer@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Lisa Fischer joined UC ANR on August 1, 2012 as the associate director of the Research and Extension Center System. Her role with ANR includes providing research and extension coordination, leadership and advocacy for the nine-center REC System. Fischer will work to improve connections between research and extension/outreach functions and support programs across department, disciplinary and Agriculture Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension boundaries. She will oversee the REC budget process. She also serves as a member of the leadership team for the new statewide program Informatics and Geographic Information Systems (IGIS).

Education:

Fischer earned a B.A. in Geography and Environmental Studies and a M.A. in Physical Geography, Remote Sensing and Land Use Monitoring from UC Santa Barbara.

Experience:

For the past 21 years before joining UC ANR, She was a program manager with the USDA Forest Service, responsible for implementing national programs and leading regional programs in aerial detection surveys, insect and disease pest risk mapping and modeling, grants program management, natural resource management and providing geospatial solutions to State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection staff. Prior to joining the Forest Service, she worked at NASA Ames Research Center conducting applied research in agriculture and natural resources, and providing technical assistance, support and expertise in facilitating, developing and managing collaborative research agreements for applied commercial remote sensing, and geospatial related projects.

Specialty:

- Natural resource management, remote sensing of agriculture and wildland environments, land use and change monitoring
- Advocacy

Areas of Expertise:

- Geographic Information Systems
- Research and Extension Centers
- Natural Resources
- Hardwood Rangelands
- Agriculture
- Program and Project Support, Administration and Communication

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://ucanr.org/sites/rec/>

<http://ucanr.edu/blogs/rec/>

Twitter: @lisafischer_rec

Missy Gable

UC Agriculture & Natural Resources Director of the Statewide Master Gardener Program

Master Gardener Program
2801 Second Street
Davis, CA 95618-7774
(530) 750-1266
mjgable@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Missy Gable joined UC ANR on June 3, 2013 as director of the Statewide Master Gardener Program.

Education:

Gable earned a bachelor's degree in biological sciences with an emphasis in plant biology and a master's degree in environmental horticulture from UC Davis. Her graduate fellowship was with the UC Davis Arboretum where her work focused on best practices for informal education in botanical gardens. Additionally, she has completed 28 units with the American Management Association and a two year leadership development fellowship with the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation.

Experience:

Gable had been the program manager for the California Center for Urban Horticulture since 2007 and the public engagement manager for the UC Davis Arboretum since February 2013. While working with the California Center for Urban Horticulture, she worked extensively with the Master Gardener Program on local and statewide training efforts including the Sustainable Landscape Train the Trainer program and the Edible Landscape Train the Trainer program. Gable has also coordinated numerous public demonstration gardens featuring UC Davis Arboretum All-Star plants, sustainable landscaping practices and pollinator attracting landscapes. She also serves on the Board of Tree Davis, the 'Bee Board' of Haagen-Dazs brand ice cream, and as a Regional Director for the Alumni Association of the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation.

Specialty:

- Informal education
- Volunteer management
- Interacting with the media

Areas of Expertise:

- Ornamentals/Landscape/Turf – General
- Arboreta and Botanical Gardens
- Horticulture
- Master Gardeners

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://camastergardeners.ucanr.edu>
<http://cagardenweb.ucdavis.edu>

Latonya Harris, Ph.D.

UC Agriculture & Natural Resources Academic Coordinator of the Youth, Families & Communities Statewide Program

Youth, Families, and Communities Statewide Program
2801 Second Street
Davis, CA 95618-7774
(530) 750-1343
lstharris@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Latonya Harris joined UC ANR on October 16, 2012 as the evaluation coordinator for the Youth, Families, and Communities Statewide Program. Harris will be applying her skills in research design and statistical analyses and working with 4-H advisors, program representatives, CE specialists, volunteers and youth to develop and implement statewide evaluations to document program outcomes and impacts.

Education:

Harris earned a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from UC Davis; an Ed.M. in Human Development and Psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education; and a B.A. in Psychology from UC Berkeley. She also completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the Center for Developmental Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, focused on children's positive development and well-being.

Experience:

Harris was previously an administrator with the City of Oakland Head Start Program, and a research specialist with a non-profit policy and planning agency affiliated with the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families. She has a wealth of experience devoted to child, youth, and family issues, including research, policy, planning, and program administration.

Specialty:

Areas of Expertise:

- Families, Youth, and Communities
- Individual and Family Resource Management
- Human Development and Family Well-Being
- Community Institutions, Health, and Social Services
- Youth Development
- Community Development
- 4-H Program
- SET
- Healthy Families and Communities

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://www.ca4h.org/>

Russell Hill

*UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in Merced, Mariposa,
Madera & Stanislaus Counties*

Cooperative Extension Merced County
2145 Wardrobe Avenue
Merced, CA 95341-6445
(209) 385-7418
rdhill@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Russell Hill joined UCCE on October 1, 2012 as the 4-H youth development advisor.

Education:

Hill received his B.A in Anthropology from CSU Fresno in 1998 and a master's in Public Administration from CSU Stanislaus in 2003.

Experience:

Before accepting his current position of 4-H Youth Development Advisor, Hill served as the state 4-H Military Partnership Programs director from 2010-2012. Hill had also been the 4-H Youth Development Program Representative in Merced County from 2005-2010. Most recently Hill worked on with a team to develop a GIS tool entitled *Putting Youth on the Map*. The tool was used to present accurate, compelling and actionable community-scale data about the condition of youth. More information can be found at <http://pyom.ucdavis.edu>.

Specialty:

Areas of Expertise:

- Sociological and Technological Change Affecting Individuals, Families, and Communities
- Community Institutions, Health, and Social Services
- Youth Development
- Community Development
- Youth Development
- 4-H Program
- SET (Science, Engineering and Technology)
- Healthy Families and Communities

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://cemerced.ucanr.edu>
<http://merced4h.ucdavis.edu>

Anne Iaccopucci

*UC Agriculture & Natural Resources Academic Coordinator of
the 4-H Healthy Living Initiative*

California 4-H Youth Development Program
Agriculture and Natural Resources
2801 Second Street
Davis, CA 95618-7774
(530) 750-1339
amiaccopucci@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Anne Iaccopucci joined UC ANR on October 16, 2012 as the 4-H healthy living academic coordinator with responsibility for providing direction for implementation of the 4-H Healthy Living Initiative. Iaccopucci will integrate the Healthy Living Initiative with youth development, nutrition and other health-related research and outreach.

Education:

Iaccopucci holds an M.A. in Child Development from California State University, Sacramento and a B.A. in Human Development from Sonoma State University.

Experience:

From 2007 until joining UC ANR, Iaccopucci was the senior youth program manager for Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails and brings experience in health-related programming, curricula development and working with youth teams.

Specialty:

Areas of Expertise:

- Healthy Lifestyle
- Youth Development
- Community Development
- EFNEP
- 4-H Program
- Healthy Families and Communities

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://www.ca4h.org/>

Jeremy James, Ph.D.

UC Cooperative Extension Specialist & Director of the Sierra Foothill Research & Extension Center

Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center
8279 Scott Forbes Road
Browns Valley, CA 95918
(530) 639-8803
jjjames@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Jeremy James joined UCCE on August 1, 2012 as rangeland specialist and director of the Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center.

Education:

James earned a B.S. in Ecology from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and a Ph.D. in Plant Biology from UC Davis. His dissertation research at Davis focused on rangeland management and restoration issues in the Intermountain regions of California.

Experience:

Previously, James was a rangeland ecologist at Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center in Burns, Ore., a position he has held since 2004. His research and extension programs focus on postfire rangeland restoration as well as management and restoration of rangeland threatened or dominated by medusahead and other noxious weed species. He also studies impacts of management on ecosystem services that rangelands provide society. James recently was awarded a \$500,000 NIFA grant through the Rangeland Research Program to lead a four-state research, extension and education program focusing on rangeland restoration following invasive species eradication. James also is part of a five-year, \$3.2 million Integrated Pest Management Research and Extension Program for medusahead, funded through a USDA Area-wide IPM program with cooperators in Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah and California.

Specialty:

Areas of Expertise:

- Hardwood Rangelands
- Natural Resources

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://ucanr.org/sites/sfrec/>

Shimat Joseph, Ph.D.

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in Monterey, San Benito & Santa Cruz Counties

Cooperative Extension Monterey County
1432 Abbott Street
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 759-7359
svjoseph@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Shimat Joseph joined UCCE on December 3, 2012 as IPM entomology advisor. Joseph focuses on pest problems affecting crops including cool-season vegetables such as lettuce, broccoli, spinach, celery and cauliflower as well as berries, ornamental nursery, and other specialty crops.

Education:

Joseph earned a B.S. in Agriculture at Kerala Agricultural University in India. He earned an M.S. and a Ph.D. both in Entomology at the University of Georgia.

Experience:

Joseph worked at the Winchester Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Virginia Tech studying management strategies for the exotic brown marmorated stink bug in fruit trees. As a post-doc, he was involved in research on tomato spotted wilt virus and its thrips vectors in tomato and pepper.

Specialty:

- Entomology

Areas of Expertise:

- Cole Crops - General
- Insects, Mites, and Other Arthropods Affecting Plants
- Biological Control of Pests Affecting Plants
- Integrated Pest Management Systems
- Beneficial Insects
- Endemic Species
- Invasives

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://cemonterey.ucanr.edu>

Susie Kocher

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in the Central Sierra

1061 3rd Street

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

(530) 542-2571

sdkocher@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Susie Kocher joined UCCE on September 7, 2012 as forestry and natural resources advisor in the Central Sierra, serving Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, and Tuolumne counties.

Education:

Kocher earned a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Iowa and an M.S. in Forestry from the University of Washington.

Experience:

Since 2006, Kocher has been serving as CE advisor for natural resources, focusing on reducing the negative impacts of wildfire in Sierra forests. To reach more landowners and resource managers, she has developed the Forest Research and Outreach website and the forest stewardship webinar series. She will continue to coordinate the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project outreach team, which is monitoring the effects of forest fuels reduction projects in two national forests in the Sierra Nevada through 2014.

Specialty:

- Bilingual in language(s) other than English: French
- Forestry, fire and water quality

Areas of Expertise:

- Forest Trees and Products
- Program and Project Support, Administration, and Communication
- Program and Project Design, and Statistics
- Communication, Education, and Information Delivery
- Natural Resources and Environment
- Watershed Protection and Management
- Management and Control of Forest and Range Fires
- Management and Sustainability of Forest Resources
- Watersheds and River Basins
- Domestic Policy Analysis

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.org/>

<http://ucanr.edu/>

<http://ucanr.edu/blogs/ForestryNews/>

Twitter: @UCsierraforest

Igor Lacan, Ph.D.

*UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in San Mateo,
San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa & Santa Clara Counties*

Cooperative Extension San Mateo/San Francisco County

80 Stone Pine Road, Suite 100

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

(650) 726-9059 x 105

(510) 684 4323

ilacan@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Igor Lacan joined UCCE on June 18, 2013 as the Bay Area environmental horticulture advisor.

Education:

Igor earned a Ph.D. in Urban Forestry in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at UC Berkeley, as well as an M.S. in Aquatic Ecology, and a B.S. in Bioresource Sciences and a B.A. in Latin, all at UC Berkeley (Go Bears!).

Experience:

Prior to joining UCCE, Igor held a tenure-track position as assistant professor of urban ecology at Portland State University (Portland, Oregon). Earlier in his career, Igor worked on several diverse aspects of applied research and environmental management in California, including water management in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, urban forest inventory and management and grasslands inventory and management in the San Francisco Bay Area, the ecology and management of imperiled amphibians in the Sierra Nevada, and urban environmental health assessment in northern and central California. Igor's current research focuses on sustainable management of urban trees and urban water, and he continues to have an active interest in California environmental policy which he acquired after spending a year at the State Capitol as a California Science and Technology Policy Fellow.

Specialty:

- Bilingual in language(s) other than English: Croatian
- International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist

Areas of Expertise:

- Trees – Ornamental / Landscape / Shade
- Parks and Urban Green Space
- Horticulture
- Water
- Watersheds and River Basins - Other
- Insects, Mites, and Other Arthropods Affecting Plants
- Pathogens and Nematodes Affecting Plants
- Conservation and Efficient Use of Water
- Watershed Protection and Management
- Urban Forestry
- Pollution Prevention and Mitigation
- Aquatic and Terrestrial Wildlife
- Conservation of Biological Diversity
- Domestic Policy Analysis
- Responding to Climate Change

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://cesanmateo.ucanr.edu>

Michelle Leinfelder-Miles, Ph.D.

*UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in San Joaquin, Contra Costa,
Sacramento, Yolo & Solano Counties*

Cooperative Extension San Joaquin County
2101 East Earhart Avenue
Suite 200
Stockton, CA 95206
(209) 953-6120
mmleinfeldermiles@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Michelle Leinfelder-Miles joined UCCE on January 23, 2012 as the Delta crops resource management advisor.

Education:

Leinfelder-Miles earned a B.S. in Crop Science and Management, with an emphasis on vegetable and pome crops, from UC Davis and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Horticulture from Cornell University. Between her master's and Ph.D. programs, she spent a year studying olives, wine grapes and kiwifruit in Spain, Chile and New Zealand, respectively.

Experience:

A sixth-generation farmer, Leinfelder-Miles has worked with her family to raise row crops on their farm in the community of Colledgeville in San Joaquin County. Prior to joining UCCE, she worked as a science and technology fellow with the California State Senate.

Specialty:

- Crop Production, Soil and Water Quality, the Delta

Areas of Expertise:

- Field Crops - General
- Fruit Crops - General
- Water
- Soil
- Plant Management Systems
- Appraisal of Soil Resources
- Soil, Plant, Water, Nutrient Relationships
- Sustainable Natural Ecosystems
- Water Quality, Quantity, and Security
- Sustainable Food Systems

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://cesanjoaquin.ucanr.edu>
<http://ucanr.org/sites/deltacrops/>

Bruce Linqvist, Ph.D.

*UC Cooperative Extension Specialist in the Department of
Plant Sciences at UC Davis*

Department of Plant Sciences
One Shields Avenue
1210 Plant and Environmental Sciences Building
Davis, CA 95616-8780
(530) 752-3125
balinquist@ucdavis.edu



Biography:

Dr. Bruce Linqvist joined UCCE on July 1, 2013 as rice cropping systems specialist.

Education:

Linqvist earned a Ph.D. in Agricultural Ecology and an M.S. in International Agricultural Development at University of California, Davis, and a B.S. in Agronomy at Texas A&M University.

Experience:

After completing his PhD, Linqvist worked as a post-doc at UC Davis where he studied the effects of changing straw management practices on rice production and nutrient cycling. He subsequently worked with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for 8 years, working in Laos on upland and lowland rice systems.

After returning to Davis in 2005, Linqvist worked closely with farm advisors and farmers in his research program. His research focuses on a wide range of issues to help ensure the sustainability of rice systems and develop tools to help farmers manage them effectively. This includes developing sustainable and efficient nutrient management practices for rice that maintain or increase yields with limited loss to the environment. Water is an important and limited resource in California. Rice fields are managed in such a way that a significant amount of water is applied to these fields, much of which flows through the field and ends up back in the states surface waters. Given this, both water use and water quality are concerns that Linqvist is addressing in his research program. Water, straw and nutrient management all affect greenhouse gas emissions (methane being of particular concern in rice), and he is quantifying GHG emissions from these systems as well as identifying possible ways to reduce them. Linqvist also works with breeders to develop tools and models to predict crop developmental stages that will allow farmers to better manage their inputs and time.

Specialty:

- Rice
- Sustainable management of rice systems: fertility management, nutrient and carbon cycling, water use, water quality, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Areas of Expertise:

- Rice
- Soil
- Plant Management Systems
- Integrated Pest Management Systems
- Conservation and Efficient Use of Water
- Sustainable Food Systems
- Water Quality, Quantity and Security

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://www.plantsciences.ucdavis.edu/plantsciences/>

Mark Lundy, Ph.D.

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in Colusa, Sutter & Yuba Counties

Cooperative Extension Colusa County
PO Box 180, 100 Sunrise Boulevard
Suite E
Colusa, CA 95932
(530) 902-7295
melundy@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Mark Lundy joined UCCE on June 28, 2013 as agronomy advisor. Lundy will focus on field crops including wheat, processing tomatoes, dry beans, corn, safflower, forage crops, and hybrid seed crops. His research and extension will address nutrient management efficiency, integrated pest management, irrigation management, sustainable farming practices, water quality and conservation, and integrating technology into production practices.

Education:

Lundy earned a B.A. in English from the University of Arizona and M.S. in international agricultural development and Ph.D. in agronomy from UC Davis. For his dissertation, he collaborated with UC Davis and U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers and rice growers in Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Butte and Glenn counties to develop and refine integrated fertility and weed management approaches in direct-seeded rice systems.

Experience:

In 2011-12, Lundy served as an extension educator for the HortCRSP Trellis Program, working with fresh market tomato growers in southern Malawi.

Specialty:

Areas of Expertise:

- Field Crops - General
- Forage Crops - General
- Integrated Pest Management Systems
- Water
- Soil
- Soil, Plant, Water, Nutrient Relationships
- Weather and Climate
- Waste Disposal, Recycling, and Reuse
- Geographic Information Systems
- Nutrients and Water in Agricultural Landscapes
- Weeds
- Sustainable Natural Ecosystems
- Water Quality, Quantity, and Security
- Sustainable Food Systems

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://cecolusa.ucanr.edu>

Fadzayi Mashiri, Ph.D.

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in Mariposa, Madera & Merced Counties & Director of Mariposa County

Cooperative Extension Mariposa County
5009 Fairgrounds Road
Mariposa, CA 95338-9435
(209) 966-2417
fmashiri@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Fadzayi Mashiri joined UCCE on February 11, 2013 as rangeland and livestock advisor and director.

Education:

Mashiri holds a Ph.D. in rangeland management from the University of Arizona, an M.S. in management of natural resources and sustainable agriculture from Agriculture University of Norway and a B.S. in agriculture from University of Zimbabwe.

Experience:

Mashiri was a senior research specialist at the University of Arizona, where she monitored the effects of adaptive management approach of grazing on vegetation since 2008. In Zimbabwe, she was a senior agricultural extension officer for Agriculture Extension Services, training extension agents and advising farmers from 1995 to 2000. She served the next two years as a lecturer and chairperson for the Department of Livestock and Wild life Management at Midlands State University in Zimbabwe.

Specialty:

Areas of Expertise:

- Management of Range Resources
- Range
- Beef Cattle/ Beef/Other Cattle Prod
- Sustainable Natural Ecosystems
- Sustainable Food Systems

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://cemariposa.ucanr.edu>

JoLynn Miller

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in the Central Sierra

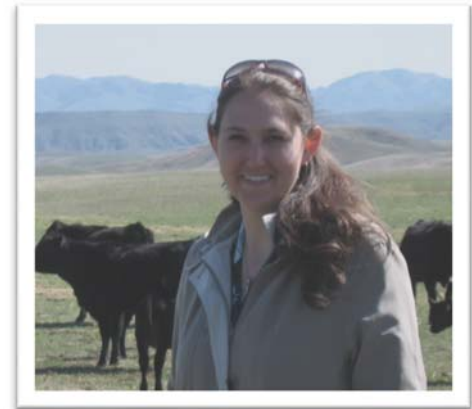
Cooperative Extension Central Sierra

2 South Green Street

Sonora, CA 95370

(209) 533-5686

jlmler@ucanr.edu



Biography:

JoLynn Miller joined UCCE on January 16, 2012 as the 4-H youth development advisor serving the four counties within the Central Sierra--Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, and Tuolumne counties.

Education:

Miller earned an M.S. in Agricultural Education from Montana State and a B.S. in Agricultural Science from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Experience:

Miller brings with her experience in non-formal teaching, outdoor science education, and delivering grant funded programs through 4-H. Miller served as a 4-H coordinator for the military program and mentoring partnership program in Gallatin County in Montana and as a teaching assistant in the Division of Agricultural Education at Montana State University. Miller is beginning to define her research program and is interested in volunteer impacts on youth outcomes, SET, and expanding the reach of 4-H.

Specialty:

Areas of Expertise:

- Youth Development
- 4-H Program
- SET

Web/Social Media Sites:

<http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/>

Maurice Pitesky, DVM, MPVM

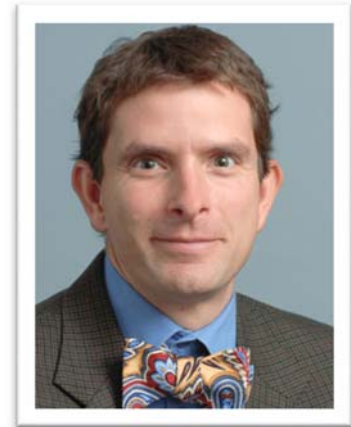
UC Cooperative Extension Specialist in the Department of Population Health & Reproduction at UC Davis

1089 Veterinary Medicine Drive VM3B, 4007

Davis, CA 95616

(530) 752-3215

mepitesky@ucdavis.edu



Biography:

Dr. Maurice Pitesky joined UCCE on May 1, 2013 as poultry health and food safety epidemiology specialist.

Education:

Pitesky earned his BS in biology from UCLA, MS in agriculture from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, and DVM and MPVM from UC Davis. Pitesky is also boarded in Preventative Veterinary Medicine (DACVPM).

Experience:

Pitesky's educational outreach and research interests in poultry developed during his tenure with the California Department of Food and Agriculture. In 2011 he began producing publications on poultry diseases for CDFA newsletters, Cooperative Extension and the California Veterinary Medical Association. He also began making numerous presentations at key poultry health venues in the state, including the California Egg Quality Assurance Program, the National Turkey Federation, the California Poultry Federation, the American Association of Avian Pathologists, and the Western Poultry Disease Conference.

Pitesky's research interests are focused on using GIS and spatial statistics to understand how avian diseases move in time and space. In 2013 he published an article in the journal *Avian Diseases* which compared FDA's and California's surveillance methods for *Salmonella* Enteritidis. In addition, he also published a paper in *Avian Diseases* focusing on the historical, spatial, temporal and time-space epidemiology of very virulent infectious bursal disease (vvIBDV) in California.

Specialty:

- Poultry Health and Food Safety Epidemiology

Areas of Expertise:

- Poultry
- Poultry - General
- Egg-Type Chickens/Eggs/Egg Products
- Meat-Type Chickens
- Poultry Meat and Meat Products
- Turkeys
- Poultry - Other
- Ducks and Geese
- Animal Diseases
- Environmental Stress in Animals
- Animal Management Systems
- Protect Food From Contamination By Pathogenic Microorganisms, Parasites, and Naturally Occurring Toxins
- Air
- Air Resource Protection and Management
- Waste Disposal, Recycling, and Reuse
- Climate Change
- Energy and Climate Footprinting
- Responding To Climate Change
- Food System Assessments/Policy
- Urban Agriculture/Local and Regional Food Systems
- Sustainable Natural Ecosystems
- Safe and Secure Food Supplies
- Energy Security and Green Technologies
- Sustainable Food Systems

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/index.cfm>

Drusilla M. Rosales, MS, RD

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in Los Angeles & Orange Counties

Cooperative Extension Los Angeles County
700 W. Main Street
Alhambra, CA 91801
(626) 586-1948
dmrosales@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Drusilla Rosales joined UCCE on June 24, 2013 as a nutrition, family and consumer sciences advisor.

Education:

Rosales earned her bachelor's degree in kinesiology from USC and a master's degree in nutritional science from Cal State LA.

Experience:

Rosales has more than 10 years of experience delivering services in nutrition therapy and education, personal training and community development. Before joining UCCE, she worked as a registered dietitian at a residential eating disorder treatment center for adolescent boys and girls. She also worked as a nutrition services consultant for the Covina Valley Unified School District, a staff research associate for UCLA, and as an adjunct faculty member for the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension investigating nutrition, exercise, eating disorders, body disturbances, and childhood obesity.

Specialty:

- Nutrition, exercise, eating disorders, body image

Areas of Expertise:

- Human Nutrition
 - Nutrient Composition of Food
 - Requirements and Function of Nutrients and Other Food Components
 - Nutrition Education and Behavior
 - Nutrition and Hunger in the Population
 - Obesity Prevention
- Food Safety
 - Protect Food From Contamination By Pathogenic Microorganisms, Parasites, and Naturally Occurring Toxins
- Human Health
 - Healthy Lifestyle
- Languages Spoken: Spanish
- Nutrition Education
 - EFNEP

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://celosangeles.ucanr.edu>
<http://ceorange.ucanr.edu>

Samuel Sandoval Solis, Ph.D.

*UC Cooperative Extension Specialist & Assistant Professor in the
Department of Land, Air & Water Resources at UC Davis*

135 Veihmeyer
Davis, CA 95616
(530) 750-9722
samsandoval@ucdavis.edu



Biography:

Dr. Samuel Sandoval Solis joined UCCE on September 1, 2011 as water resources specialist and LAWR as assistant professor after doing doctoral research at the Center for Research in Water Resources at the University of Texas, Austin.

Education:

Sandoval Solis earned a B.S. in civil engineering and M.S. in hydraulics from Instituto Politecnico Nacional and a Ph.D. in environmental and water resources at UT Austin.

Experience:

Sandoval Solis works with stakeholders, farmers, water management agencies, environmental organizations and the society to develop water management policies that meet the societal and economics needs, while considering the environment health of the basin ecosystems. He works in multidisciplinary teams to achieve sustainable water management policies and does quantitative water management through models that provide insights about current and alternative policies. He uses the sharing vision technique to build consensus among parties.

Specialty:

- Science talks in English and Spanish about hydrology and climate change
- Sharing vision technique and conflict resolution
- Integrated water resources management
- Geographic information systems for water resources
- Optimization, simulation and hydrologic models for water planning
- Benefit-Cost analysis
- Reservoir re-operations
- Groundwater banking
- Environmental water management
- Efficiency in water use and water conservation estimations

Areas of Expertise:

- Sugar Beets
- Alfalfa
- Pasture, General
- Cotton - General
- Beans, Dry - General
- Grains - General
- Fruit and Nut Crop - General
- Tree Fruits - General
- Berries - General
- Grapes - General
- Subtropical Fruits - General
- Deciduous Tree Fruits - General
- Tomatoes - General
- Cucurbits - General
- Water
- Watersheds and River Basins
- Watersheds and River Basins - General
- River Basins
- Watersheds
- Wetland and Riparian Systems
- Conservation and Efficient Use of Water
- Watershed Protection and Management
- Weather and Climate
- Aquatic and Terrestrial Wildlife
- Computer Programming
- Climate Change
- Sustainable Natural Ecosystems
- Water Quality, Quantity, and Security
- Sustainable Food Systems
- Languages Spoken: Spanish

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://watermanagement.ucdavis.edu/>
<http://lawr.ucdavis.edu/hyd/hyd-faculty.htm>

Noelia Silva-del-Río, DVM, Ph.D.

UC Cooperative Extension Specialist in the Department of Population Health & Reproduction

UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center
18830 Road 112
Tulare, CA, 93274-9537
(559) 688-1731
nsilvadelrio@ucdavis.edu



Biography:

Dr. Noelia Silva-del-Río joined UCCE on March 1, 2012 as dairy herd health, production medicine and food safety specialist in the Department of Population Health and Reproduction, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Her research interests include nutritional management, corn silage management, milk quality, animal welfare, periparturient health problems, and the effects of heat stress on Central Valley dairy herds.

Education:

Silva-del-Río obtained her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela in Spain in 1998 and practiced for two years in a dairy cattle cooperative in Spain. In 2007, she completed a Ph.D. in Dairy Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with an emphasis in dairy cattle nutrition and reproductive physiology.

Experience:

Since 2008, Silva-del-Río had served as the UCCE advisor in Tulare County for dairy. Her work has been recognized by the Tulare County Office of Education, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.

Specialty:

- Dairy

Areas of Expertise:

- Animals and Their Systems
- Animal Diseases
- Nutrient Utilization in Animals
- Animal Welfare/Well-Being and Protection
- Reproductive Performance of Animals
- Animal Management Systems
- Languages Spoken: Spanish

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://www.vmtc.ucdavis.edu/facandstaff/silva-del-rio/silva-del-rio.html>

Christopher Smith, Ph.D.

*UC Cooperative Extension Director in Ventura County &
Director of Hansen Research & Extension Center*

Cooperative Extension Ventura County
669 County Square Drive, #100
Ventura, CA 93003-5401
(805) 662-6943
cmwsmith@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Christopher Smith joined UCCE on August 26, 2013 as director for Ventura County and director of Hansen Research and Extension Center.

Education:

Smith earned his B.S. in Genetics at UC Davis while performing biochemical research on herbicide tolerance in glyphosate-resistant tomato cells, and subsequently received an M.S. in Biology for his work on Citrus Tristeza Virus at Long Beach State University. At the University of Nebraska, his research encompassed biochemical characterization of regulatory proteins (“kinases/phosphatases”) involved in CO₂-fixation, and wound-induced systemic signaling and gene expression in peas, culminating in a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences. After completing his doctorate, he did postdoctoral research in computational biology at the San Diego Supercomputer Center, UCSD.

Experience:

Prior to joining UCCE, Smith served as the associate vice provost for research at Rice University, and executive director for the Center for Theoretical Biological Physics and the National Biomedical Computation Resource at the University of California San Diego. At UCSD, he was also involved in the sequence-structure computational analyses of protein kinases (“molecular switches”), and development of data analytical tools and database resources.

Specialty:

- Plant Biochemistry, Enzyme Regulation, Mechanisms of Herbicide Action, Sequence/Structural Bioinformatics

Areas of Expertise:

- Plant Genome, Genetics, and Genetic Mechanisms
- Plant Genetic Resources
- Plant Biological Efficiency and Abiotic Stresses Affecting Plants
- Basic Plant Biology
- Insects, Mites, and Other Arthropods Affecting Plants
- Pathogens and Nematodes Affecting Plants
- Biological Control of Pests Affecting Plants
- Integrated Pest Management Systems
- 4-H Program
- IPM
- Endemic and Invasive Pests and Diseases
- Science Literacy in Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Nutrition

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://ceventura.ucanr.edu>

Martin Smith, Ed.D.

*UC Cooperative Extension Specialist in the Department
of Human Ecology & School of Veterinary Medicine
at UC Davis*

Veterinary Medicine Extension
1383A Surge III
Davis, CA 95616-8736
(530) 752-6894
(530) 752-7035
mhsmith@ucdavis.edu



Biography:

Dr. Martin Smith joined UCCE in 1996. In July 2012, he accepted a shared appointment with Human Ecology as a CE Specialist in youth scientific literacy.

Education:

Smith has a B.S. in Environmental Biology, an M.S. in Biology, and an Ed.D. in Teacher Leadership.

Experience:

With a background in environmental biology, biology, and education, Smith has previous experience as a teaching faculty member at the University of Maryland's Munich Campus in Germany, as well as serving as the youth education program director for the Jane Goodall Institute. Currently, Smith is an Associate Specialist in Cooperative Extension in the Departments of Population Health and Reproduction and Human Ecology on the UC Davis Campus. His areas of research and extension include youth scientific literacy with an emphasis on inquiry-based curriculum development for youth audiences and educator professional development using communities of practice.

Specialty:

- Bilingual in language(s) other than English: German
- Science Education
- Program and Curriculum Development
- Educator Professional Development

Areas of Expertise:

- Program and Project Support, Administration, and Communication
- Youth Development
 - 4-H Program
 - SET
- Strategic Initiatives
 - Healthy Families and Communities
 - Science Literacy in Natural Resources, Agriculture and Nutrition

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://hcd.ucdavis.edu/faculty/webpages/mhsmith>
<http://faculty.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/faculty/mhsmith/>

Katherine E. Soule, Ph.D.

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in San Luis Obispo & Santa Barbara Counties

Cooperative Extension San Luis Obispo County
2156 Sierra Way
Suite C
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 781-4093
kesoule@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Katherine Soule joined UCCE on June 25, 2013 as a youth, families, and communities advisor. In this role, she leads the 4-H program, the UC CalFresh Nutrition Education Program, and other programs related to improving residents' lives in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.

Education:

Soule has a varied educational background, including a B.A. in English and a M.S. in Agriculture from California Polytechnic State University. Additionally, she obtained a Ph.D. from the Counseling and Human Development Services Department at University of Georgia with a specialization in Recreation and Leisure.

Experience:

She has pursued education, research, and service related to positive youth, family, and community development. Through her research, Soule advocates for recognition of how social norms reinforce discrimination, as well as provide opportunities for change. She instructed courses focusing on positive youth development, needs assessment, program design, and program evaluation. In all areas, Soule strives to ensure successful community partnerships by emphasizing mutual benefits and respect.

Specialty:

- Qualitative Research
- Technical Writing
- Positive Youth Development
- Experiential Education
- Community Engagement

Areas of Expertise:

- Youth Development
- Human Development and Family Well-Being
- Sociological and Technological Change Affecting Individuals, Families, and Communities
- Outdoor Recreation

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://cesanluisobispo.ucanr.edu>
<http://cesantabarbara.ucanr.edu>

Alex Souza, DVM, Ph.D.

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in Tulare County

Cooperative Extension Tulare County

4437-B S. Laspina Street

Tulare, CA 93274

(559) 684-3313

souza@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Alex Souza joined UCCE on September 3, 2013 as area dairy advisor.

Education:

Souza earned a M.S. in Dairy Science from University of Wisconsin, USA; a Ph.D. in Physiology of Reproduction in a joint venture between the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil and The University of Wisconsin, USA; and a Post-Doc degree on Dairy Nutrition and Reproduction from University of Wisconsin, USA. Souza also has a DVM from Sao Paulo State University, Brazil.

Experience:

Prior to joining UCCE, Souza served as a manager of reproduction in cattle for Ceva Animal Health Headquarters in Libourne, France, providing global technical support and training mainly in dairy cattle reproduction and management. In the US, he was a dairy-reproduction specialist, leading the ReproConnections extension support service on behalf of Accelerated Genetics and World Wide Sires, a program designed to improve reproduction performance in dairy herds worldwide. While working on his M.S., Ph.D. and Post Doc, Souza carried out work related to herd health, fresh cow management, synchronization programs, ultrasound and breeding techniques, nutrition, embryo transfer and *in vitro* fertilization in commercial beef and dairy farms in Brazil and the US. He also worked part time as a private veterinarian with a focus on health and reproduction in cattle from 2005 to 2008.

Specialty:

- Bilingual in language(s) other than English: Portuguese
- Advanced statistical data analysis (SAS, SPC)
- Biotechnologies: ultrasound, AI, ET, IVF

Areas of Expertise:

- Livestock and Dairy – General
- Beef Cattle / Beef / Other Cattle Prod
- Dairy Cattle / Milk / Other Dairy Prod
- Animal Protection
- Animal Diseases
- Animal Production
- Reproductive Performance of Animals
- Nutrient Utilization in Animals
- Genetic Improvement of Animals
- Animal Physiological Processes
- Environmental Stress in Animals
- Animal Management Systems
- Economics, Markets, and Policy
- Economics of Agricultural Production and Farm Management
- Computer Programming
- Contracts and Grants Specialist
- Languages Spoken: Spanish
- Research and Extension Centers
- Agriculture
- Commercial
- Science Literacy in Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Nutrition

Web/Social Media Site:

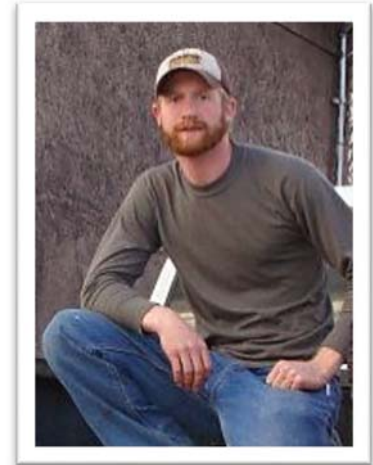
<http://cetulare.ucanr.edu>

Jeffery Stackhouse

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in Humboldt & Del Norte Counties

Cooperative Extension Humboldt County
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Eureka, CA 95503-6998
(707) 445-7351

[Email address to be provided at a later date](#)



Biography:

Jeffery Stackhouse will be joining UCCE on November 4, 2013 as the livestock and natural resources advisor. Raised on a ranch, Stackhouse managed a flock of nationally recognized Columbia sheep in Northern California where he learned basic livestock husbandry practices, gained fundamental livestock nutrition knowledge, and understand general forestry and agroforestry practices.

Education:

Stackhouse earned an M.S. in Natural Resources Management from North Dakota State University and a B.S. in Wildlife Resources and a second B.S. in Range Ecology and Management, both from University of Idaho.

Experience:

Stackhouse has worked the past three years as wildlife research specialist at the Hettinger Research Extension Center, North Dakota State University, conducting and reporting research on impacts of range management practices on a variety of species, including both domestic and wild, soils, cover crops, native and Conservation Reserve Program prairie restoration, ecological site descriptions, and overall assessment of rangeland health. From 2005 to 2010, Stackhouse was a field biologist with Todd Sloat Biological Consulting, Inc., conducting biological surveys and monitoring air quality.

Specialty:

- Rangeland Management
- Wildlife Biology
- Livestock Production and Forage
- Livestock/Wildlife Interactions
- Prairie Restoration

Areas of Expertise:

- Beef Cattle/Beef/Other Cattle Prod
- Sheep, Sheep Meat and Wool
- Forage Crops - Other
- Pasture, Dryland and Seeded
- Natural Resources and Commodities - General
- Forest/Range/Wildlife Commodities/Habitats-General
- Range
- Wildlife - General
- Wild Birds - Game
- Wild Birds - Non-Game
- Wild Animals - Game
- Wild Animals - Non-Game
- Management of Range Resources
- Agroforestry
- Aquatic and Terrestrial Wildlife
- Wildlife

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://cehumboldt.ucanr.edu>

Kristen Stenger

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in Fresno & Madera Counties

Cooperative Extension Fresno County

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(559) 241-7528

kristenger@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Kristen Stenger joined UCCE on August 5, 2013 as area nutrition, family and consumer sciences advisor.

Education:

Stenger earned a B.S. in Nutrition and Dietetics and a M.S. in Nutrition and Health Sciences from University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Experience:

Prior to joining UCCE, Stenger completed a dietetic internship with community emphasis at Idaho State University-Meridian. During her master's program she researched food safety knowledge, practices and beliefs in Hispanic families with young children in Nebraska. She has created food safety publications with the University of Nebraska Extension concerning food safety for infants.

Specialty:

- Racial, ethnic and socioeconomic nutrition-related health disparities
- Food safety
- Mixed methods research
- Registered Dietitian

Areas of Expertise:

- Food Safety
- Healthy Lifestyle
- Nutrient Composition of food
- Nutrition Education and Behavior
- Nutrition and Hunger in the Population
- Obesity Prevention

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://cefresno.ucanr.edu>

<http://cemadera.ucanr.edu/>

Andrew Sutherland, Ph.D.

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in the San Francisco Bay Area

Cooperative Extension Alameda County

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Alameda, CA 94502

(510) 777-2481

amsutherland@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Andrew Sutherland joined UCCE on April 2, 2012 as the area urban IPM advisor for the San Francisco Bay Area, serving Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, San Francisco and Santa Clara counties. The primary emphasis of his position is pest management of arthropods in urban areas. A major focus of Andrew's programs is to develop new IPM strategies, or to adapt and implement IPM strategies already available, in cooperation with UC Farm Advisors, Master Gardeners, pest control advisers, pest management professionals, pest control operators, public agencies, schools, parks, public housing, and regulatory agencies involved with both landscape IPM and structural /industrial IPM. As a member of the University of California's Statewide IPM Program (UC IPM), Andrew serves as a conduit for IPM-related information and resources.

Education:

Andrew earned a B.S. in Environmental Horticulture from the University of Florida and both his M.S. in Horticulture and Agronomy and Ph.D. in Entomology from UC Davis.

Experience:

Andrew has been involved as a researcher, educator, and practitioner in the field of IPM for 15 years; as a nurseryman, landscaper, and consultant in Florida, as a graduate student in the laboratory of Michael Parrella in the UC Davis Department of Entomology, at the UC Davis Arboretum, and as a postdoctoral researcher in the UC Davis Department of Plant Pathology. He was recently recognized by the Entomological Society of America as a Board Certified Entomologist (B.C.E.), specializing in both 'Urban and Industrial Entomology' and 'Plant-Related Entomology'.

Specialty:

- Urban Interface IPM
- Biological control
- Decision support systems for IPM
- Reduced-risk pesticides
- Vector ecology
- Pruning theory and practice
- Experimental design and statistical analysis
- Mathematical modeling
- Insectary management

Areas of Expertise:

- Ornamentals / Landscape / Turf - General
- Insects, Mites, and Other Arthropods Affecting Plants
- Pathogens and Nematodes Affecting Plants
- Biological Control of Pests Affecting Plants
- Integrated Pest Management Systems
- Beneficial Insects
- Insects and Other Pests Affecting Humans
- Zoonotic Diseases and Parasites Affecting Humans
- Conservation and Efficient Use of Water
- Watershed Protection and Management
- Languages Spoken: Spanish
- Urban Agriculture/Local and Regional Food Systems
- IPM
- Endemic and Invasive Pests and Diseases

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://ucanr.edu/sites/urbanIPM/>

<http://cealameda.ucanr.edu/>

<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/andrew-sutherland/12/542/84b>

Kris Tollerup, Ph.D.

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in San Joaquin Valley & Surrounding Areas

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ketollerup@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Kris Tollerup joined UCCE on October 15, 2013 as an area integrated pest management entomology advisor in Fresno County.

Education:

Kris Tollerup earned a B.A. in Pomology, Tree and Vine Culture from California Polytechnic State University, and an M.S. in Entomology, Integrated Pest Management and a PhD in Entomology, IPM and Insect Behavior from UC Riverside.

Experience:

From 2010 until joining UCCE, Kris Tollerup will continue as a postdoctoral fellow at UC Davis. Through October of 2012, Kris collaborated with Dr. Larry Godfrey, specialist in the Department of Entomology, Rob Wilson, Farm Advisor and Director of Intermountain Research and Extension Center, and Dr. Dan Marcum, Farm Advisor in Shasta County, on a project to develop arthropod IPM programs for peppermint in California. From November 2012 to October 2013, Kris and this same group of collaborators will continue to work on peppermint to integrate the use of biopesticides into arthropod IPM programs. Prior to coming to UC Davis, Kris worked with Dr. Peter Shearer (currently at Oregon State University, Hood River Experiment Station) to develop effective mating disruption strategies to manage oriental fruit moth on peaches and apples in New Jersey. He has served on an inter-agency committee that worked with chemical companies, researchers, growers, and the Interregional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4) to promote the development and registration of ant baits for use in California agriculture.

Specialty:

Areas of Expertise:

- Ag Commodities and Products-General
- Plant Cmmdtys and Prod - General
- Fruit and Nut Crop-General
- Grapes - General
- Nut Crops - General
- Citrus - General
- Deciduous Tree Fruits - General
- Plant Production
- Plant Management Systems
- Basic Plant Biology
- Insects, Mites, and Other Arthropods Affecting Plants
- Languages Spoken: Spanish
- Climate Change
- Research and Extension Centers
- Commercial
- Organic
- Small Farms
- IPM
- Endemic Species
- Invasives

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://kare.ucanr.edu/>

Julia Van Soelen, MPH, MS

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor in Marin, Napa, Sonoma & Mendocino Counties

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Biography:

Julia Van Soelen joined UCCE on October 9, 2013 as the area food systems advisor. Van Soelen’s research, academic, and professional work focuses on sustainable and local/regional food systems. She brings to UCCE a background in community education and outreach and a specialty in Farm to School.

Education:

Van Soelen earned an M.S. in Community Development, a Master of Public Health, and a B.S. in Sociology from UC Davis.

Experience:

From 2011 until joining UCCE, Van Soelen was a program coordinator for Davis Farm to School and Yolo Farm to Fork, where she was responsible for researching, implementing, and evaluating Farm to School programs in collaboration with the local school district’s school meal, garden, and waste reduction programs. From 2008 to 2012, Van Soelen served as a researcher for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program and the Agricultural Sustainability Institute at UC Davis, where she conducted longitudinal program and outcome-based evaluation for a national Farm to School collaborative and worked with many of the nation’s leaders in local and sustainable school food procurement. Through her experiences, Van Soelen has fostered productive dialogue with food systems stakeholders including community residents, youth, school districts, government entities, non-profit organizations, agricultural producers, and industry.

Specialty:

- Farm to School

Areas of Expertise:

- Families, Youth, and Communities:
 - Community Development
- Food and Society:
 - Urban Agriculture/Local and Regional Food Systems
- Strategic Initiatives:
 - Healthy Families and Communities
 - Health of Californians and California’s Agricultural Economy
 - Sustainable Food Systems

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://cemarín.ucanr.edu>

Guangyao (Sam) Wang, Ph.D.

UC Cooperative Extension Specialist & Director of Desert Research & Extension Center

ANR Desert Research & Extension Center
1004 East Holton Road
El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 356-3065
samwang@ucanr.edu



Biography:

Dr. Guangyao “Sam” Wang joined UCCE on May 13, 2013 as vegetable crops specialist and director of Desert Research and Extension Center.

Education:

Wang earned a B.S. in crop science at Shanxi Agricultural University and M.S. in botany at China Agricultural University. From 1997 to 2000, he studied weed biology and weed control in turfgrass and vegetables as a research and extension scientist at the Institute of Plant Protection at Beijing Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences. At UC Riverside, he earned an M.S. in applied statistics and Ph.D. in plant biology. After completing his doctorate, Wang did postdoctoral research on sustainable vegetable production at Michigan State University in the Department of Horticulture and at UC Riverside in the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences.

Experience:

Wang served as a cropping systems specialist and assistant professor for five years at the University of Arizona in the Maricopa Agricultural Center and School of Plant Sciences. In Arizona, he studied cover cropping and vegetable crop management, crop rotation and residue management, integrated cotton management and development of new crops.

Specialty:

- Bilingual in language(s) other than English: Chinese

Areas of Expertise:

- Cotton, Upland
- Wheat
- Vegetable Crops - General
- Leafy Vegetables - General
- Lettuce
- Cole Crops
- Cole Crops - General
- Broccoli
- Plant Management Systems
- Sustainable Food Systems

Web/Social Media Site:

<http://ucanr.edu/sites/desertresearch/>