Yudof visits Monterey County

On Oct. 22, President Yudof and VP Dooley visited UC Cooperative Extension in Monterey County, where he met local ANR clientele and advisors who serve Monterey and Santa Cruz counties.

County director Sonya Varea Hammond showed Yudof around the Monterey County UCCE office, with its three laboratories and greenhouse.

Yudof also visited a romaine lettuce field with Jim Lugg, now retired from Fresh Express, and Tanios Viviani, president, Global Innovation and Emerging Markets and chief marketing officer for Chiquita Brands International, the parent company of Fresh Express. They saw the techniques workers use for hand harvesting the lettuce for packaging. Fresh Express executives told Yudof that they contribute funds for food safety research and depend on UC research to ensure the safety of their products.

At a reception at Tanimura & Antle headquarters, Yudof met Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel), Salinas Mayor Dennis Donohue, the UCCE advisors who serve Santa Cruz and Monterey counties, and local agriculture leaders. Yudof was presented a basket of local produce, including artichokes, mini pumpkins and UC-patented Albion strawberries.

“I think President Yudof left Monterey with a greater understanding of how ANR research contributes to the success of the fresh produce industry,” said Hammond.

Dooley said he will be looking for other opportunities to show Yudof the direct connections between the Division’s work and success of the agricultural industry in California.

A brief video of Yudof’s visit to a romaine lettuce harvest is posted at http://ucanr.org/sites/news/President_Yudof_in_Salinas/.

ANR town hall recording posted on Web

The link to an Adobe Connect recording of VP Dooley’s Oct. 28, 2010, ANR all-staff town hall meeting can be found in your ANR Portal http://ucanr.org/portal. The link is in the Adobe Connect section in the right column.

Dooley gave an update on division activities, then answered participants’ questions. The recording is 45 minutes long.

If you have trouble accessing the recording, please contact Bryon Noel (530) 754-3937 or bjnoel@ucdavis.edu.

Flash is required to view the recording. Flash can be downloaded at http://Adobe.com.
START program ends Dec. 31

A program that allowed faculty, academics, and staff to voluntarily reduce work hours in exchange for a corresponding pay reduction is scheduled to end. The Staff and Academic Reduction in Time program, or START, was enacted as a temporary measure to help the University of California cope with budget shortfalls and will end on Dec. 31, 2010.

John Fox, UCOP director of Human Resource Policies, stated, “Although many employees have appreciated the program and it has helped UC save on salaries, this is the right time for it to end.”

In 2009 alone, UC achieved salary savings of roughly $16 million through employee participation in START.

UC administration will not recommend an extension to the START program.

For more information, contact Robert Martinez at (530) 725-3467, ramartinez@ucdavis.edu, or Karen Ellsworth at (530) 752-7917, kaellsworth@ucdavis.edu, in the ANR Staff Personnel Unit.

Employment Opportunity:
Director, Statewide Youth, Families and Communities

ANR is recruiting a director of Statewide Youth, Families and Communities to lead the 4-H Youth Development Program (4-H YDP) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), as well as other ANR youth, nutrition, family and community programs.

The director will provide statewide programmatic leadership as well as administrative and operational support for 4-H youth development and nutrition education programs at all levels of the organization.

Based in Davis, this academic administrator position will report to the associate vice president of Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives.

The director will convene and chair the State Youth, Families and Communities Leadership Team comprised of the associate director of policy, programs and educational outreach; associate director of 4-H youth development research; associate director of nutrition education research, associate director for development; director of the 4-H Foundation, and Youth, Families and Communities management services officer.

The director may also maintain an active research/extension program relevant to the field. If the incumbent seeks a departmental home as an advisor or specialist, the program commitment and associated academic affiliation will be considered at the time of appointment.

For details about the director of Statewide Youth, Families and Communities position, go to http://ucanr.org/Jobs/Jobs_990/?jobnum=78.

The position is open until filled, but to assure full consideration, application packets must be received by Jan. 3, 2011.

To submit an applicant packet or to request a UC ANR Academic Application form, contact Pam Tise, Academic Personnel, at (530) 754-8509 or pdtise@ucdavis.edu. Please refer to position number AP #10-03 in correspondence.

Business Operation Centers become one unit

On Jan. 1, the previously established Business Operation Centers at Davis and Kearney will be consolidated into one center with current staff.

The center will continue to operate in two locations with the current staffing and report to Jake McGuire, ANR’s controller and director of Business Services.

Cherie McDougald, current chief administrative officer (CAO) of the Business Operations Center at Kearney, which serves Cooperative Extension county-based operations, will become director of the consolidated Business Operations Center. Nikki Humphreys, current CAO of the Business Operations Center at Davis, which serves statewide programs, EFNEP and ANR’s service units including the Research and Extension Centers – Administrative Office, will become associate director of the consolidated Business Operations Center.

The consolidation will allow the processing of business services in one entity while building on individual staff expertise and strengths, provide consistency in procedures, employ consistency in implementing internal controls and compliance, and provide a core staff to work on business projects such as the multicounty partnership project.
PAC discusses Strategic Initiatives

The President’s Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources met Oct. 21 at the Doubletree Hotel in Berkeley to discuss UC’s budget and ANR’s Strategic Initiatives.

Don Bransford, the incoming PAC chair, opened the meeting by thanking outgoing chair Stuart Woolf for his service.

VP Dooley briefed the PAC on UC’s budget, thanking the members for their efforts on ANR and UC’s behalf.

Future demand for food

Dooley discussed opportunities for California agriculture and UC research on a global scale as the world’s population grows. Global food demand is expected to double by 2060 and there is growing recognition that additional investment in research and education is essential.

“If we don’t adapt to climate change, the impact on many communities around the world will be dramatic,” he said.

“If the level of productivity stays same, there will be a decline in calorie availability. Rapidly growing populations will have enormous impact.”

Dooley referred to a study by Julian Alston and Philip Pardey that showed new and compelling correlations between public investment in agricultural research and the rate of productivity increase.

Strategic Initiatives

AVP Barbara Allen-Diaz reported on ANR’s Strategic Initiatives and updated the PAC on recent developments in Healthy Families and Communities, Endemic & Invasive Pests and Diseases, Sustainable Food Systems and Sustainable Natural Ecosystems. Asked by Dooley if the nine initiatives in the Strategic Vision were aligned with California’s priorities, lively discussion followed with PAC members in general agreement and emphasizing the importance of water to all aspects of California’s future.

Dooley and Allen-Diaz agreed and reaffirmed the priority of the water initiative and the importance of all initiative areas identified in the Strategic Vision.

Challenges to program delivery

PAC members expressed their approval of focusing ANR funds on research priorities, cost savings achieved by the administrative restructuring, and efforts to stabilize Cooperative Extension’s funding at the local level in light of funding changes proposed by some county governments.

To conclude the meeting, President Yudof engaged the commissioners in a brainstorming session on how to increase funding for ANR research and state support for UC and higher education.

The PAC will meet next on May 5.
Dahlberg named Kearney director

Jeffery Dahlberg has accepted the position of Kearney director beginning Jan. 3.

Dahlberg will oversee both Kearney Agricultural Center (academic group) and Kearney Research & Extension Center. He will be based in Parlier and report to Bill Frost, the Research and Extension Center System associate director/Cooperative Extension assistant director.

Dahlberg has served since 1999 as research director for the National Sorghum Producers and since 2009 as the research director for the United Sorghum Checkoff Program. He is based in Lubbock, Texas. He conducts and publishes sorghum research and has worked to develop sorghum use in the biofuels and renewable industries and food industry. He currently is lead investigator on a $984,000 U.S. Department of Energy grant to study the composition of sorghum and for its potential of cellulosic conversion to biofuel.

“I’m looking to become more involved in day-to-day research that has an impact on producers,” Dahlberg said. “This job will allow me to become more involved in research at various levels and also to manage research.”

Prior to his current position, Dahlberg worked for USDA Agricultural Research Service in Puerto Rico as a research geneticist and sorghum curator for seven years. He also served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer for three years in the Republic of Niger.

“My experience in sorghum also gives me an opportunity to work with others on this drought tolerant crop as an important crop for California, as a forage crop that uses half to one-third less water than corn forage, and as a new bioenergy feedstock for California consumers as they struggle to fuel the state’s economy in a sustainable and renewable way for the future,” the Bay Area native said.

Dahlberg earned a Ph.D. in plant breeding at Texas A&M University, a master’s in agronomy & plant genetics at University of Arizona and a bachelor’s in biology at Occidental College in Los Angeles.

“This newly configured position, combining leadership responsibilities for both units, requires a unique set of skills,” said Frost. "Jeff Dahlberg’s research and experience working with producers, industry and policymakers will be a tremendous asset to the division in his role as Kearney director."

KREC is comprised of 320 acres, contains laboratory, greenhouse and postharvest facilities in addition to cropland, and has an annual budget of almost $2 million. KREC currently employs 27 career staff employees and hires an additional 10 FTE in seasonal labor to support the crop production and facilities. KAC is comprised of approximately 20 academic members from UC Davis, UC Riverside and UC Berkeley who are permanently assigned to Kearney. In addition, KAC faculty have eight career staff employees for secretarial, graphic art and computer support.

Christy, Hobart named Staff Personnel analyst II

Cathy Christy and Beth Hobart have been named analyst IIs in the ANR Staff Personnel Unit. Christy will begin her new position effective Dec. 1. Hobart will begin on Dec. 13.

Christy and Hobart will join Patsy Serviss, who is also an Analyst II, to work as a team providing analytical and advisory support, review and approve staff personnel recruitment and hiring activities, classifications and reclassifications, employee layoff, leaves and separations.

Under the general direction of Linda Marie Manton, executive director for Staff Personnel, and as members of the ANR administrative team, they will be providing ANR directors and academic supervisors with information, interpretation and recommendations related to staff collective bargaining agreements, personnel policies, procedures and practices for all ANR units. The team will also be involved in development and integrations of information technology solutions for staff personnel processes.

Christy has worked for ANR for 32 years, serving with Human Resources units since 1989. She is currently an Analyst I in the Staff Personnel Unit. She can be reached at (530) 752-7129 and cachristy@ucdavis.edu.

Hobart has been a UC employee since 2001 and most recently worked as an administrative office supervisor for the UC Davis Department of Land, Air and Water Resources. She can be reached at bhobart@ucdavis.edu.

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Van Eenennaam wins national CE award

Alison Van Eenennaam, UC Davis animal genomics and biotechnology specialist, received the 2010 national award for “Excellence in Extension” from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. In its acknowledgement, the APLU said, “She has developed a well-funded research program targeting mission-oriented animal biotechnology research and an internationally recognized outreach program.”

Van Eenennaam was lauded for using a variety of media, including YouTube, to inform the general public about science and technology.

The award was presented to Van Eenennaam on Nov. 14 at the annual APLU meeting in Dallas.

As announced in the August 2010 ANR Report, members of the small farm program also received the 2010 Diversity Award at the APLU meeting.

CAS inducts Carey, Wainwright as fellows

James R. Carey, UC Davis entomology professor, and Peter Wainwright, UC Davis professor of evolution and ecology, were among 12 fellows inducted Oct. 12 in the California Academy of Sciences.

Carey specializes in invasion biology and insect biodemography. His research interests in aging and longevity include the use of tephritid fruit flies (medfly) and other insect species (butterflies; Drosophila) to address questions concerning life span limits, effects of dietary and caloric restriction on longevity, male-female mortality differentials and the gender gap, aging in the wild, behavioral gerontology, dynamics of morbidity and mortality, and the biology and demography of disability.

Wainwright has been involved in developing new technologies for studying the mechanics of fish suction feeding and methods for studying evolutionary diversification of functional morphology.

Zalom wins ESA’s IPM award

UC Davis integrated pest management specialist Frank Zalom is the 2010 winner of the “Award for Excellence in Integrated Pest Management” from the Entomological Society of America.

Jocelyn Millar, the UC Riverside entomology professor who nominated Zalom for the award, described him as “one of the most influential scientists in the development and implementation of IPM policy and practices in the United States and the world, through his numerous and continuing contributions as a leader, director, and organizer.”

The IPM strategies and tactics Zalom has developed include monitoring procedures, thresholds, pest development and population models, biological controls and use of less toxic pesticides, which have become standard in practice and part of the UC IPM Guidelines.