Statewide YFC program org chart unveiled

The organizational chart for the new Statewide Youth, Families and Communities Program has been released. The new program encompasses the administration and leadership for the 4-H Youth Development Program (4-H YDP) and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), as well as other ANR youth, nutrition, family and community programs.

Last June, AVP Barbara Allen-Diaz announced the restructuring of nutrition education, youth and community programs with the goals of improving the communication between county and state offices, identifying new opportunities for collaborative efforts, streamlining administrative functions, maximizing funds and other resources, and realigning the goals of these statewide programs with ANR’s Strategic Vision 2025.

“By integrating ANR’s youth, families and communities programs into a single program, which incorporates the full research - extension continuum, we will assure more interdisciplinary collaboration to address urgent issues facing California youth, families and communities,” said Allen-Diaz.

The director of the Statewide Youth, Families and Communities Program provides statewide programmatic leadership as well as administrative and operational support to youth development and nutrition education programming. This position is under recruitment, with interviews scheduled for Feb. 15 and 16.

Reporting to the associate vice president of Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives, the director convenes and chairs the YFC Senior Leadership Team, which is composed of the associate director of 4-H program policy; chair of EFNEP Leadership Council; associate director of 4-H youth development; research; associate director of nutrition - research; associate director of family & communities-research; associate director for development and director of the 4-H Foundation; and YFC management services officer.

The Statewide YFC Program works collaboratively with and complements the Healthy Families and Communities Strategic Initiative priorities and other critical issues affecting California youth, families and communities and develops strategies for effective organizational responses. The development of policy, program guidance, outreach, educational curriculum and professional development for ANR’s youth, families and communities programs will be consolidated under the newly formed YFC statewide program.

The Statewide YFC Program organizational chart can be viewed at http://www.ca4h.org/files/70906.pdf.
Oak woodland management webinar offered this spring

A webinar series titled “Guidelines for Managing Oak Rangelands” will be presented on March 15, 22, 29 and April 5. This webinar series is designed to create an awareness of the importance of managing oak woodlands and to present alternative management strategies for landowners to consider. It will be presented around the concepts in the University of California’s publication, “Guidelines for Managing California’s Hardwood Rangelands.” All registered participants will receive a copy of this book.

There will be four 2-hour sessions broadcast on the Web followed by a full-day (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) field trip. Participants can choose one of two field trip options: April 16 at Sierra Foothill Research & Extension Center or April 30 at Hopland REC. All webinar sessions will start at 10 a.m. PST and run through noon. The webinars will be recorded for those who are unable to attend the live webinar.

The $25 fee covers handout materials and administrative costs. The URL for the webinar will be sent to registrants.

To register or for more information, visit http://ucanr.org/oakwebinar or contact Rick Standiford at standifo@berkeley.edu or (510) 643-5428.

Beachy awards $40 million in NIFA grants to UCD scientists

UC Davis scientists Jorge Dubcovsky and David Neale have received $40 million in federal grants to lead research teams from more than 50 universities in more than 20 states in developing climate-change-tolerant plants and new bioenergy sources.

Roger Beachy, director of the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture, announced the grants Jan. 12 at UC Davis, characterizing them as “significant investments.”

Dubcovsky, a UC Davis wheat geneticist, will receive $25 million to head a research team that will work to develop new varieties of wheat and barley. Neale, a UC Davis forest tree geneticist, will receive $14.6 million to head a team that will work to sequence the genomes of loblolly pine and two other conifers.

Video of Beachy’s speech at UCD posted

Feeding the world is daunting but doable, Roger Beachy, director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture, told the audience attending the UC Davis Chancellor’s Colloquium on Jan. 12.

Read Pat Bailey’s interview with Beachy or watch the 90-minute video of the NIFA director’s lecture “Can Support of Science for ‘Agriculture’ Prosper Inside the Beltway?” at http://ucdavis.edu/spotlight/0111/usdas_roger_beachy.html.

UCD effort reports due Jan. 28

UCD effort reports for ANR academics paid through UC Davis are available now for online certification at http://myeffort.ucdavis.edu. Certification required by federal regulation must be completed by Jan. 28, 2011.

For assistance in certifying your effort report, CE Advisors may contact Kathy Carrington at (951) 827-4697 or kjcarrington@ucdavis.edu. Other academics may contact their respective unit business managers for assistance.

Mileage reimbursement raised

UC Office of the President has issued revised Business & Finance Bulletin policy G-28, Policy and Regulations Governing Travel to reflect the new mileage reimbursement rate.

The new mileage reimbursement rate, effective Jan. 1, 2011, is 51 cents per mile for expenses incurred in connection with the business use of a private automobile. In addition, the new mileage reimbursement rate for driving or shipping an automobile in connection with a move is 19 cents per mile.

For more information, please contact Lorraine Holm at lholm@uckac.edu, (559) 646-6590, Nora Rodriguez at nrodriguez@uckac.edu, (559) 646-6532, at BOC-Kearney or Debbie McGinnis at dlmcginnis@ucdavis.edu, (530) 754-0383 of the BOC-Davis.
Introducing ePubs

Communication Services has produced the first two in a series of ePubs, publications optimized for use on electronic readers. “Asian Citrus Psyllid” and “Establishing Hedgerows on Farms in California” can be downloaded from http://anrcs.ucdavis.edu/Publications/Epubs.

As with many ANR publications, these ePubs contain color photos, so the use of a color reader is recommended. The ePubs will work with the iPad, Sony reader, Nook, and almost everything else except the Kindle.

“The publishing landscape is changing, and we want to be ready to meet the challenges and explore the opportunities presented,” said Cynthia Kintigh, who is leading the team working on the project. “While not all publications are suitable for this format, we want to be ready to offer the format in the future, so these short publications give us the ability to experiment with the technology.”

The first publications chosen for conversion to the ePub format were selected because they were short, and contained a variety of the technical challenges presented by the format. The immediate plan is to convert five publications; more publications will be converted in the future.

The ePubs team is seeking receive feedback from users of the new publications; a comment form is available on the ePubs site.

SiteBuilder 2 goes offline July 1, switch to SB3

Communication Services will be closing the administration side of SiteBuilder 2 on July 1. Don’t wait until the last minute to move your website to SiteBuilder 3.

SiteBuilder 3 adds many new features while simplifying familiar tasks. SB3 allows you to embed surveys, create databases, add image galleries and display a tremendous amount of content from other ANR systems.

Converting SB2 websites over to SB3 is easy, and we’ve created a step-by-step guide on how to get started. Visit http://ucanr.org/move to learn about the importation process.

Once you’ve imported your files and pages, you will need to spend a little time fixing links and organizing your new site. When you’re finished, give us a call and we’ll move or redirect your old URL and help you finalize the transition.

After July 1, we will begin migrating all remaining SB2 websites to SB3 or removing them from the ANR server.

Alex Zangeneh Azam, lead web designer, can help you through the process. He can be reached at (530) 754-3926 and zangeneh@ucdavis.edu.

ANR history video now online

How well do you know the history of UC Agriculture & Natural Resources?

Jim MacDonald, executive associate dean of the UC Davis College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, presented an overview of our history recently to a group of new academics.

MacDonald starts with President Lincoln signing the Morrill Act in 1862 to create the Land Grant University system and the opening of the UC campus in Berkeley in 1868. He covers a century of changes that shaped ANR, including the birth of Cooperative Extension in 1914, the year UC started spelling farm advisor with an “o” in advisor, and Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers Union suing UC in the 1960s for inventing the tomato harvester, which displaced some farm workers.

As you might expect, the professor ends the presentation with a quiz.

MacDonald’s 42-minute presentation is available in streaming video for viewing at http://stream.ucanr.org/AES_ANRHistory/index.html.

Hansen calls for proposals

ANR’s Thelma Hansen Fund offers two opportunities for project proposals addressing agricultural and natural resources issues relevant to Ventura County:

• Direct funding for projects
• Land, labor, and facilities at the Hansen Agricultural Center in Santa Paula

While it is not necessary for projects to be conducted in the county, it should be evident that the project addresses relevant needs of Ventura County.

Proposals are due April 1. Information and required forms can be found at http://ucanr.org/sites/hansenagcenter/Hansen_Agricultural_Center_Programs/Grants/.

For information on research support or facilities, contact Jose De Soto, Hansen REC director at (805) 525-9293 x208. For information on electronic submission or forms, contact Patricia Verdugo Johnson at (805) 525-9293 x202.
Names in the News

Jones appointed interim director of UCOP budget

UC Executive Vice President Nathan Brostrom has appointed Donna Jones interim director of UCOP budget, providing overall leadership for the Office of the President budget, effective Jan. 1, 2011.

Jones, who is currently ANR budget director, is taking on the responsibilities of Michael Rancer, who is retiring from the UCOP director position. She will continue to perform budget-related duties for ANR during her one-year appointment and will remain ANR budget director. Jennifer Bunge, ANR associate budget director, will assume many of Jones’ day-to-day duties in ANR during the year.

“Donna’s joint appointment presents a wonderful opportunity for ANR to work more closely with the UCOP and systemwide budget offices,” says Kay Harrison Taber, AVP-Business Operations.

Jones brings to the job 30 years of UC budget and financial experience from her start at UC Santa Barbara in 1981 and past 15 years with ANR.

Guy joins CNR as communications director

Ann Brody

Guy joined the College of Natural Resources as their new Director of Communications on Jan. 18. She will be writing news stories and fact sheets, doing media relations and strategic communications, and managing a variety of multimedia communications, including Breakthroughs magazine.

Guy is a 10-year employee of UC Berkeley. She spent seven years as Editorial Manager of the Communication and Marketing Services department at UC Berkeley Extension, and three years as the Communications Director at the Institute of Transportation Studies, a large research unit. She has won numerous marketing awards for her writing, and many of her research-news stories have received national media coverage.

Before joining UC, Guy spent 10 years as arts-and-entertainment writer and editor for weekly newspapers, and also briefly taught high school English in San Francisco. She received a B.F.A. from the California College of the Arts and completed a teaching credential through the graduate program in education at San Francisco State University.

Guy can be reached at anguy@berkeley.edu and (510) 643-1041.

Programmer Salcedo joins IPM

Leon Salcedo

Salcedo joined the statewide UC Integrated Pest Management Program in Davis on Dec. 1 as a programmer. Currently Salcedo is converting UC IPM’s web site to work with ANR CSIT technology, and he will also write interactive programs, such as insect or plant disease models, and databases related to pest management for the UC IPM website.

Since coming to UC Davis in 2008, Salcedo has developed Web applications for the Bookstore and School of Law. Before joining UC, he worked for the San Joaquin County Superior Court and Contra Costa County Community Services Department.

He is a graduate of UC Berkeley in applied mathematics with an emphasis in computer science.

Salcedo can be reached at (530) 752-4839 and lcsalcedo@ucdavis.edu.

ANR scientists elected AAAS fellows

Seven scientists affiliated with ANR are among 503 new fellows elected this year to the American Association for the Advancement of Science for their efforts to advance science or its applications.

ANR’s 2010 AAAS fellows and the reason for their selection are as follows:

Eduardo Blumwald, UC Davis professor: “For his contributions to the field of plant ion transport and the application of those discoveries to the development of salt- and drought-tolerant crops.”

Robert I. Krieger, UC Riverside Cooperative Extension specialist in entomology: “For distinguished contributions to the field of pesticide science in teaching, research, and particularly in the communication of principles of toxicology.”

Thomas A. Miller, UC Riverside professor of entomology: “For distinguished contributions to the field of insect physiology and the application of transgenic and paratransgenic techniques to control insect pests.”

David Neale, UC Davis professor: “For his leadership to the community” through serving as the founding editor of the scientific journal Tree Genetics and Genomes; co-authoring the textbook Forest Genetics; and building Dendrome, a collection of forest-tree genome databases.

Laosheng Wu, UC Riverside professor of soil science: “For distinguished contributions to soil and water sciences, especially in soil and water resources management and protection.”

Frank Zalom, UC Davis professor and Cooperative Extension entomologist: “For his distinguished scholarly, educational and administrative contributions that have significantly advanced the science and application of integrated pest management in agriculture nationally and internationally.”
Retirement

Laurence R. Costello, UC Cooperative Extension environmental horticulture advisor, retired Jan. 1 after serving San Mateo and San Francisco counties for 30 years.

The Toronto, Canada, native has dedicated most of his professional life to the University of California. He earned his B.S. in plant science and M.S. in horticulture from UC Davis, then a Ph.D. in plant physiology from UC Berkeley.

Upon completing his Ph.D., Costello began his career as an environmental horticulture advisor in the UC Cooperative Extension San Mateo/San Francisco office in Half Moon Bay in January 1981.

In an effort to help municipal, commercial and utility tree care professionals and homeowners reduce tree hazard potential, in 1987, he created the California Tree Failure Report Program, a statewide database to collect information identifying the causes of tree failures in urban areas.

The U.S. Forest Service’s International Tree Failure Database, which is being merged with the California database, is based on Costello’s model.

Costello is nationally and internationally recognized for his research and education in the areas of tree hazard assessment and failure analysis, water management, soil aeration management, pest management, oak management in urban landscapes, and the prevention and mitigation of sidewalk damage by tree roots.

The International Society of Arboriculture named him the 2009 recipient of its Alex Shigo Award for Excellence in Education and awarded him its prestigious L.C. Chadwick Award for Research in 2002. He was twice honored for his research and once for his education by the society’s western chapter.


Costello plans to do some consulting and continue to manage the California Tree Failure Report Program while running a small wholesale tree nursery business, Oracle Oak Nursery, in Hopland.

In Memoriam

Josephine “Jo” W. Van Schaick, retired 4-H youth and home advisor, passed away Jan. 10. She was 91.

Van Schaick served as a 4-H youth & home advisor for Santa Barbara County from 1947 until her retirement in 1987.

In 1941, she graduated with a degree in home economics, with minors in chemistry and sociology from Santa Barbara State College (now UCSB). Beginning her career as a home demonstration agent, she focused on clothing, home furnishing, home management, and food and nutrition. As an advisor, she wrote a weekly food and nutrition column for the Santa Barbara News-Press. For about 15 years, she also filmed a 10-minute TV segment weekly for the local station, giving advice to consumers on where to get the best deals locally on fresh produce.

Van Schaick participated in ANR’s oral history project in 2008. Reflecting on her 40-year career, she discussed the close working relationship between specialists and advisors, changes in clientele and program delivery, the role of home economics in society, changing roles for women as technology was introduced, the shift in what was considered proper nutrition, and funding of programs. She also discussed her work with Farm Bureau groups; Italian, Portuguese and Danish immigrants; migrant farmworkers and 4-H youth.

She was the daughter of a former farm advisor. Working with B. H. Crocheron, her father Carl Williams helped establish UC Cooperative Extension in Fresno and Sacramento counties in 1915.

A transcript of the 2008 interview with Van Schaick can be read at http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO/projects/anr/transcripts.html.