Website for 2013 ANR statewide conference opens

A website for the 2013 ANR statewide conference is now online at http://ucanr.edu/sites/statewideconference2013. As information about the conference develops, it will be posted here. ANR’s statewide conference for academics and staff is scheduled for April 9–11, 2013.

The planning committee will be meeting over the next few months to craft an agenda for the conference. If you have comments or suggestions to help in planning the conference, you can submit them through the website.

The list ANR statewide conference planning committee members is as follows:

• Co-chair Edie Allen, UCCE specialist and professor in the Department of Botany & Plant Sciences at UC Riverside
• Co-chair Morgan Doran, UCCE director in Solano County and advisor in Solano, Napa and Yolo counties
• Maggi Kelly, UCCE specialist in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at UC Berkeley
• Peter King, UC public affairs director
• Valerie Mellano, UCCE acting director and advisor in San Diego County
• Tim Paine, professor in the Department of Entomology at UC Riverside
• Doug Parker, director of the California Institute for Water Resources and leader for the water strategic initiative
• Mike Poe, media services manager in ANR Communication Services and Information Technology
• Dan Putnam, UCCE specialist and AES agronomist in the Department of Plant Sciences at UC Davis
• Kim Rodrigues, executive director of academic personnel
• Ken Tate, UCCE Russell L. Rustici Rangeland Watershed specialist in the Department of Plant Sciences at UC Davis
• Sherry Cooper, program analyst II in the Program Support Unit

The conference will be held April 9–11, 2013, at the DoubleTree Hotel near the Ontario Airport in Southern California.

Comment on CE positions by Aug. 7

Comments are still being accepted for the 100-plus Cooperative Extension advisor and specialist positions submitted in response to ANR’s 2012 supplemental call for academic positions. The positions remain posted on the publicly accessible site www.ucanr.edu/callforpositions.

ANR stakeholders as well as employees are encouraged to offer comments and provide input. The system will remain open to collect comments on the positions until Aug. 7.

Rate priority topics for Water SI conference

The Water Strategic Initiative panel seeks your input for planning its conference on Nov. 14–15 at UC Davis.

Please complete a short survey to let the planning committee know which topics you think are most important to address at the water conference. The survey asks you to rate a list of six topics based on their importance for inclusion at the conference and to suggest other issues you think should be covered. The survey will be available until 5 p.m. on July 27.

UC program teams and workgroups will have an opportunity to meet at the conference to coordinate team efforts and plan activities. Program team and workgroup leaders wishing to secure meeting space during the conference should complete this meeting request and the Program Support Unit will respond to you as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Doug Parker, Water Strategic Initiative leader, at (510) 987-0036 or contact the ANR Program Support Unit at (530) 752-1581.
Employment: Agronomy advisor

ANR is seeking a Cooperative Extension advisor to conduct a multi-county-based extension, education and applied research program to address agronomic cropping systems and sustainable agriculture issues and provide research-based technical and educational assistance to the field crops industry in the low desert region of California. This advisor will serve Imperial, Riverside and San Diego counties and be based at the UC Desert Research and Extension Center in Holtville.

The advisor will develop educational programs to address the needs of industry and conduct applied research with the primary focus on, but not limited to, crops such as alfalfa, wheat, sudangrass, bermudagrass, kleingrass, cotton, and bioenergy crops and their cropping systems.

A master's degree is required, though other advanced degrees are encouraged, in disciplines in agronomy, plant sciences or other closely related fields. An educational background or work experience in crop production, irrigation, plant physiology, weed science, entomology, plant pathology or soil science is desirable. Extension experience is also desirable. Excellent written and oral communication skills are required.

See the full position description at http://ucanr.edu/Jobs/Jobs_990/?jobnum=282. To assure full consideration, application packets must be received by Aug. 24, 2012. The position is open until filled.

Federal reports posted

ANR’s FY 2011 federal Annual Report and FY 2013-2017 Plan of Work are now posted on the Divisionwide Planning web page http://ucanr.org/sites/anrstaff/Divisionwide_Planning/. This reporting is required by USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture for the over $14 million of federal agricultural research and extension formula funds received by the University of California.

These documents provide a statewide overview of how ANR works to turn science into solutions.

The Annual Report includes many of ANR’s research, teaching and service performance measures, including impressive statewide outcomes and specific success stories. Looking at the Annual Report, one can see how ANR uses the programmatic information entered into its internal reporting system DANRIS-X, UC Delivers, and the federal Current Research Information System (CRIS). The databases give ANR statewide perspective and specific examples for communicating how we deliver science-based solutions to address practical issues.

Summaries of accomplishments for the federal planned programs, which are part of the Annual Report’s executive summary, were provided by program area experts at the request of Bill Frost, associate director of Cooperative Extension and the Agricultural Experiment Station. The following people contributed:

- Rose Hayden-Smith, UCCE advisor in Ventura County, “Global Food Security and Hunger”
- Beth Grafton-Cardwell, UCCE specialist in the Department of Entomology at UC Riverside and Endemic and Invasive Pests and Diseases strategic initiative leader, “Endemic and Invasive Pests and Diseases”
- Steve Kaffka, UCCE specialist in the Department of Plant Sciences at UC Davis, “Sustainable Energy”
- Maggi Kelly, UCCE specialist in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at UC Berkeley, “Climate Change”
- Steve Koike, UCCE advisor in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties, “Food Safety”
- Connie Schneider, director of Youth, Families and Communities, “Healthy Families and Communities” and “Childhood Obesity”
- Bill Stewart, UCCE specialist in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at UC Berkeley, “Sustaining Natural Ecosystems”

Complaint resolution policy revised

The University of California has revised “Staff Policy 70—Complaint Resolution” for staff employees in the Professional and Support Staff (PSS) and Managers and Senior Professionals (MSP) grades I-VII personnel groups.

The revisions define the rights and responsibilities of both the employee and the University during the complaint resolution process. New sections, intended to address common issues such as informal resolution and withdrawing a complaint, have also been added to the policy.

The full policy is posted on At Your Service: http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/employees/policies_employee_labor_relations/personnel_policies/index.html

ANR staff can direct their questions on Staff Policy 70 to anrstaffpersonnel@ucdavis.edu or Linda Manton at (530) 752-0495.
RREA requests proposals

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Statewide Special Program is requesting proposals to develop or support new or existing projects and activities that address the educational and extension needs in the management of California’s renewable resources.

The primary purpose of this program is to promote the proper management of these resources, especially on private lands, and to provide the information, education and training needed by CE personnel, land owners and land managers.

Proposals are also being accepted for student interns to work on projects or activities that address educational and extension needs in the management of California’s renewable resources.

The 2012-2013 RREA Call for Proposals is posted at http://ucanr.org/sites/rea/Proposals.

To apply for a 2012-2013 RREA grant, access your ANR Portal page - Universal Review System - Open Systems - 2012-2013 RREA Project and Student Intern Grants.

The deadline for submitting completed proposal applications is 5 p.m. on Aug. 30.

For more information, contact Melanie Caruso at (530) 752-5336 or Sherry Cooper at (530) 752-1581, in the ANR Program Support Unit anrpsugrants@ucdavis.edu.

RREA requests proposals

The Affirmative Action Resource Library is stirring back to life! We have a few books and DVDs available for lending. The current list is at http://ucanr.org/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/Resources.

One book that I can recommend is “When Affirmative Action Was White” by Ira Katznelson. Written in 2005 this book is an unblinking look at the first stirrings of modern governmental social programs that would one day grow to include what we now call Affirmative Action. But these early social programs didn’t have their start in the 1960s . . . they actually can be traced back to pre-World War II-era America. And the main beneficiaries of these early programs? Not African-Americans or other minorities. “When Affirmative Action Was White” is a revelatory look at the history of affirmative action from the New Deal to Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society and beyond.

We will also be gradually adding DVDs — many of which will be dealing with topics in cultural sensitivity and awareness: great for staff trainings in diversity!

We have two DVDs:

• “White Face,” directed by Brian McDonald, copyright 2000. A “serious comedy” that will stimulate discussion about race and bigotry. Very well acted and produced. Approximately 14 minutes in length. (Due to instances of strong language may not be suitable for children.)

• “Freedom Riders,” directed by Stanley Nelson, copyright 2011. Shown on PBS. A documentary detailing how groups of college students in 1961 decided, en masse, to risk everything to challenge racial segregation that was institutionalized in the South at the time. Riveting. 120 minutes, but can be shown in segments.

To check out any of these materials, complete the Resource Library Loan form. For more information, contact me at dewhite@ucdavis.edu. — David White

UC ad campaign mentions UCCE

UCOP launched its Onward California campaign on June 18 to raise public awareness of the ways people benefit from UC research and outreach. You may have seen the ½-page ads that state, “Whether you know it or not, the University of California, or a UC grad, has probably played a part in your day,” in the Wall St. Journal, Los Angeles Times or Sacramento Bee or heard mentions on National Public Radio. Ads also are appearing on the Web on LATimes.com, SFGate.com, Sacbee.com and others through Aug. 20.

One ad mentions UC Cooperative Extension and another ad talks about climate change research in a vineyard. To see the ads and other elements of the campaign, go to http://onward-california.com.

New exit survey process piloted

ANR will be implementing a new web-based exit survey process. Retiring and other separating ANR employees will soon be receiving an email with a link to a confidential, online exit survey. ANR is taking part in this UCOP program with several other UC campuses to pilot this process, which is being provided by Corporate Leadership Council, a third-party vendor.

Academic and staff employees leaving ANR employment will be asked to take the survey before they actually leave ANR. Completing this survey from CLC is still optional, but hearing from ANR employees about why they are leaving ANR and their feelings about their experience while at ANR can be a valuable tool to ANR leadership. If you have questions about the exit surveys, contact David White at dewhite@ucdavis.edu.
Names in the News

James named Sierra Foothill REC director

Jeremy James has accepted the positions of director of Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center and UC Cooperative Extension specialist, effective Aug. 1.

He is currently 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 for 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.

“The diverse and passionate stakeholder base committed to conserving working landscapes in California as well as the large number of high-impact rangeland research and extension programs in the state are two of the things that really attracted me to this position,” James said.

James earned a B.S. in ecology from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, in 1998 and a PhD in Plant Biology from UC Davis in 2004. His dissertation research at Davis focused on rangeland management and restoration issues in the intermountain regions of California.

After Aug. 1, James can be reached at (530) 639-8800.

Bruhn named IAFP fellow

The International Association for Food Protection will name Christine Bruhn, UC Cooperative Extension specialist at UC Davis, a fellow of the association with respect to her research and educational leadership in food protection and food safety communications on July 22 at its annual meeting. Her distinguished career includes service to IAFP and the state affiliate organizations for over 25 years. Bruhn, who is also director of the UC Davis Center for Consumer Research, is being recognized for communicating science-based information to advance food protection with food professionals and the public.

Bruhn was the first recipient of IAFP’s Developing Scientist Research Award in 1986 and the Elmer Marth Educators Award in 2005. Through her numerous publications and presentations, Bruhn is well known and recognized worldwide. As an expert in consumer attitudes and perceptions, she has served as an advisor to many national and international organizations and agencies on food safety and communication. Bruhn recently served on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Risk Communication Advisory Committee and the FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition Research Review Subcommittee. She has previously been elected fellow in two other professional associations, also in recognition of her food safety educational and research in consumer attitudes and behavior.

Industry honors Hodel’s palm research

Donald R. Hodel, UC Cooperative Extension advisor in Los Angeles County, who specializes in environmental horticulture and serves Southern California, was honored at the society’s 78th Annual Conference in Pacific Grove on April 30. The award is bestowed in recognition of outstanding contribution of research that has added to the sum knowledge of arboriculture.

“It is very rewarding to have your work appreciated by the industry and to know it has had a positive impact on them,” Pittenger said.

Pittenger wins arboriculture research award

For the second consecutive year, Dennis Pittenger, UC Cooperative Extension advisor based in Los Angeles County, has received the Arboriculture Research Award from the International Society of Arboriculture Western Chapter. Pittenger, who specializes in environmental horticulture and serves Southern California, was honored at the society’s 78th Annual Conference in Pacific Grove on April 30. The award is bestowed in recognition of outstanding contribution of research that has added to the sum knowledge of arboriculture.

“It is very rewarding to have your work appreciated by the industry and to know it has had a positive impact on them,” Pittenger said.
Slides posted for nitrogen forums

Slide presentations from half-day forums held in June to discuss management of agricultural nitrogen are now posted at http://ucanr.edu/sites/managingagriculturalnitrogen. To see the presentations delivered at the Sacramento meeting, choose “June 11 Forum.” Presentations given at the Tulare meeting are under “June 18 Forum.” Each presentation is hyperlinked to its title in the agenda.

The two community forums to explore solutions to nitrate in groundwater and the role of policy were co-hosted by the UC California Institute for Water Resources and the CDFA Fertilizer Research and Education Program.

At the forums, UC Cooperative Extension specialists described methods of managing nitrogen on dairies and cropland. Members of the agricultural industry and representatives of statewide and regional programs discussed the practical aspects of adopting nitrogen management practices.

Asif Maan of CDFA announced that FREP has created a searchable database of FREP-funded projects.

If you have questions about the forums, contact Doug Parker, director of the California Institute for Water Resources and leader for the water strategic initiative, at doug.parker@ucop.edu.

Retirements

Mel George

Mel George, UC Cooperative Extension specialist in the Department of Plant Sciences at UC Davis, has retired after 34 years of working to make rangelands more healthy, productive and sustainable throughout California and the world.

“Mel has been a mentor and leader within the range science community his entire career,” said Ken Tate, UC Cooperative Extension specialist, who holds the Russell L. Rustici Endowed Chair in Rangeland Watershed Sciences. “Mel’s ability to see emerging issues on rangelands, and to position UC ahead of these issues, has allowed us to keep our research and extension at the forefront of rangeland management.”

When George arrived at UC Davis in 1978, he was responsible mainly for forage trials, helping ranchers keep their land productive. But George could see issues with grazing and water quality on the horizon and worked to head them off at the pass. In the early 1990s, he spearheaded the UC Cooperative Extension Rangeland Watershed Program.

Farming is in George’s blood going back 15 generations. Raised in Gridley, he was the first in his family to attend college, receiving his bachelor’s degree in animal science from CSU Chico. He received his master’s in range management from Texas Tech in 1969.

The Vietnam War was in progress and in October 1969, George was drafted into the U.S. Army. In November 1970, he boarded a plane bound for active duty that crashed during takeoff, killing 40 people aboard. George was severely burned.

George earned his Ph.D. in range ecology at Utah State University, then worked three years at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo before coming to UC Davis in 1978.

George has earned countless awards over the years, including the Outstanding Alumnus at Utah State in 2000, the prestigious James H. Meyer Distinguished Achievement Award at UC Davis in 2007 and the College of Agriculture Distinguished Alumnus Award from CSU Chico in 2008.

George will stay busy in retirement, still working on a slew of rangeland research projects under way in the UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences. — Diane Nelson

Read full story at http://ucanr.edu/news/?blogpost=7921&blogas set=44546

Marilyn Johns

After a 38-year UC Cooperative Extension career, Marilyn Johns retired July 1 as UCCE director for Santa Clara, San Francisco and San Mateo counties and Elkus Ranch and UCCE advisor for 4-H and nutrition, family and consumer sciences.

Johns began working for UC Cooperative Extension in 1974 as an advisor for Plumas, Sierra, Lassen and Modoc counties. She coordinated the 4-H Youth Development and nutrition education programs for those four counties until 1983, when she became a UCCE advisor in El Dorado and Amador counties in the same role.

In 1985, Johns transferred to San Mateo and San Francisco counties to serve an urban population as the UCCE 4-H Youth Development and nutrition, family and consumer sciences advisor. One of her projects was starting a school garden in Pacifica. She recruited senior citizens to teach the children how to grow vegetables. The senior citizens’ requests for guidance led her to develop TWIGS, 30 gardening and nutrition lessons for “Teams With Intergenerational Support.” Published in 1997, Johns continues to receive requests for the TWIGS curriculum. More than 3,500 copies have been sold to schools, after-school programs, parks and recreation and YMCA programs, senior centers, nutrition networks and food banks in 22 states.

While serving the Bay Area, Johns earned a master’s degree in public administration with an emphasis in human resources at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont. In 2005, Johns was promoted to director for UCCE in San Francisco and San Mateo counties and director of Elkus Ranch, an environmental education and conference center in Half Moon Bay that provides hands-on learning experiences.

Continued on next page
for San Francisco Bay Area youth. In 2011, Johns was also named director of UCCE in Santa Clara County.

In addition to promoting nutrition education and agricultural literacy through gardening, Johns has studied teen pregnancy. An article that she coauthored, “Best Practices in Teen Pregnancy Prevention,” was one of the most visited online articles of the Journal of Extension in 2005.

Johns and nonprofit partners Hidden Villa and Collective Roots recently received a three-year grant of $173,000 per year from Sequoia Healthcare District to improve children’s health through garden-based learning.

In retirement, Johns, who has been granted emeritus status, looks forward to continuing to contribute to garden-based learning as well as spending time with family and traveling for pleasure. To ease the transition to a new county director, she will return in August on a 30 percent appointment.

Read the full story at http://ucanr.edu/news/?blogpost=7837&bloggasset=44547.

Claudine Kent

Claudine Kent, principal administrative analyst in the Office of Controller and Business Contracts and the Office of Administrative Services, retired June 28.

Kent joined ANR in 1991 as an administrative assistant in the Office of Affirmative Action and Staff Personnel. In 1999 she became executive assistant to the assistant vice president of Programs and Academic Personnel. After Lanny Lund retired as AVP of Programs and Academic Personnel, Kent became executive secretary for Chris Casey, who became assistant vice president of Administrative Services, in 2005. In 2007, Kent joined the Office of Controller and Business Contracts providing research, analysis, recommendations and reporting for business and financial affairs. She also coordinated ANR whistleblower investigations and oversaw audit and compliance report recommendations.

Andra Strads

Andra Strads, analyst in Academic Personnel, retired in December. She analyzed academic policies and procedures covering areas of advancement, recruitment and compensation for the Division. She also maintained the online program review system and coordinated the academic advancement process for Cooperative Extension academic employees.

The Berkeley native joined UC Berkeley in 1979 as a senior typist clerk with the Department of Forestry and Resource Management. She went on to serve as an administrative assistant in the Department of Plant and Soil Biology, College of Natural Resources Dean’s Office and the Forest Products Lab at the Richmond Field Station.

In 1996, Strads became an assistant in ANR’s Budget Office in Oakland. In 2003, she became an administrative analyst in Academic Personnel. She earned a bachelor’s degree in history with an emphasis in Latvian history from UC Berkeley.
UCOP posts Morrill Act slide show

On July 2, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Morrill Act, which led to the creation of UC and the other Land Grant universities. To commemorate the occasion, UCOP has created a Morrill Act slide show. Narrators include VP Barbara Allen-Diaz, UC Cooperative Extension advisor Rose Hayden-Smith and UC Berkeley wildlife and forestry professor Reginald Barrett, whose great-great grandfather, Jonathan Baldwin Turner, was the leader of the movement that launched the Morrill Act. See the story and slide show at http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/article/27951.

In memoriam

William W. Wood, Jr., UC Cooperative Extension specialist emeritus, passed away on May 29 at 82. He had been a UCCE specialist based at UC Riverside from 1964 to 1991, the last three years in the Department of Environmental Sciences.

Wood was born Nov. 4, 1929, near Marysville, on a dried-fruit and tree-nut ranch. He earned a B.A. in political science from Occidental College in 1951, working during the summers as a ranch hand. After graduation, he was employed with the California Almond Growers’ Exchange, the Almond Marketing Order, and the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics at UC Berkeley. While at Giannini, he realized he would need advanced degrees to do the work he wanted to, and enrolled first at UC Davis and then at UC Berkeley, earning an M.S. in 1963 and a Ph.D. in 1965, both in agricultural economics.

He referred to himself as a “policy economist.” According to William Jury, UC Riverside professor emeritus of soil physics, “Dr. Wood’s most significant contributions . . . were in the areas of land policy, water policy, and public policy education. He was the author of numerous papers on land policy, and was the foremost expert on the California Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act), serving in advisory and consulting roles to the Resources Agency of the State of California. He also provided advice, analysis and educational programs for many California counties.”

Wood was Cooperative Extension’s universitywide Coordinator for Economics, 1971-78; Program Director, Agricultural Economics and Community Resource Development, 1981-88; and taught agricultural economics courses for the Department of Economics. On the occasion of his retirement in 1991, colleagues called him an “outstanding teacher” and “nationally recognized as a leader,” and said that he ran “one of the outstanding extension programs . . . in the U.S.”

Wood is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Skipper, five children, and five grandchildren. The family will be holding a memorial later this year. In lieu of flowers, they request donations to the National Audubon Society.

– Sara Clausen

Growers learn from their networks

Growers who are most successful at adopting innovative viticultural practices are generally involved in outreach and education activities, according to the results of the 2011 Lodi Winegrape Grower Survey. The survey is part of a statewide study of sustainable viticulture practice adoption, outreach and education program evaluation and social learning by Mark Lubell, professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at UC Davis, and Ph.D. candidates Matthew Hoffman and Anthony Hillis.

In addition to Lodi, the researchers are surveying growers in Napa Valley and San Luis Obispo about their practice adoption and program participation. The goal of the study is to understand how local agricultural sustainability programs influence growers’ social networks and adoption of sustainable agriculture practices. They will also be conducting a survey of CE advisors and viticultural consultants.

Related reports and publications are available in the “Attachments” section of the Sustainable Viticulture: Practice Adoption and Social Networks website.

“Everything we have written so far is based on our Lodi survey and an outreach professional survey,” said Hoffman. “We are just now wrapping up our Central Coast grower surveys and a Lodi winery survey.”

They post updates on the study on a blog at http://environmentalpolicy.ucdavis.edu/blog. If you would like to be added to their research report email distribution list, email Hoffman at mbhoffman@ucdavis.edu.

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