Yudof outlines state of UC in white paper

President Mark Yudof presented to the UC Board of Regents on May 15 a report that charted the significant changes of the past six years and offered a candid assessment of how UC is performing today.

Yudof, who will step down in August after serving five years, said he had prepared the data-driven white paper to offer an overview of the significant trends and policy choices that might await the next president.

UC continues to shine when it comes to serving first-generation and low-income Californians. The report notes that four out of 10 UC students are eligible for Pell Grants, meaning they come from families with annual incomes of $50,000 or less.

Yudof included the following about ANR:

The Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources provides a bridge between on-the-ground farming issues and UC research, and its 330 Cooperative Extension employees serve Californians through agricultural, nutritional, and resource management education and training in every county of the state. The volunteers in ANR’s 4-H program donated more than one million hours in 2011, and today they serve more than 130,000 California youth. ANR’s 6,000 Master Gardeners teach Californians sustainable landscaping, and support school and community gardens.

ANR’s Strategic Vision for 2025, released in 2009, reorganized its administrative structure to better support its division goals. An entire management tier was eliminated with the closure of three regional offices and business operations were consolidated. ANR continues to reduce administrative costs by creating multicounty partnerships with county governments, where appropriate.


Regents: ANR’s work is ‘critically important’

On May 16, VP Allen-Diaz gave an overview of ANR to the UC Regents at their meeting in Sacramento. She closed her presentation by telling them that Cooperative Extension will be celebrating its 100-year anniversary and showing the CE centennial video produced by the UCOP creative team.

Regent Richard Blum emphasized the importance of ANR’s work.

“As you mentioned, the population is expected to grow to 9 billion people by 2050,” said Blum. “In order to meet the demand so malnutrition and starvation don’t get any worse, you need to increase production by 70 percent. There probably isn’t enough farmland around to do it. So that just says the work that all these campuses do, particularly, I think, Davis, is not only critically important for California, it’s critically important for the world.”

Regent Fred Ruiz complimented Allen-Diaz on the Global Food Systems Forum that ANR hosted in April. “What was really amazing to me was the amount of interest and participation we had from organizations throughout the world,” Ruiz said. “The reason they were listening is we play a very important role in feeding the world.”

“Please go back to your team and let them know how much we all respect, appreciate and support the most important work you’re all doing,” said Regent Bonnie Reiss to Allen-Diaz.

Video recordings of the Regents meeting are at http://lecture.ucsf.edu/ETS/Catalog/Full/333992fe14054d6bae39512a3018ff3421. Allen-Diaz’s presentation begins at the 2:20 mark of the May 16 session.

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Employment opportunities

San Joaquin Valley: Area IPM Entomology Advisor

ANR is seeking a UCCE integrated pest management and entomology advisor to serve primarily the San Joaquin Valley. The IPM advisor will conduct applied field and lab research designed to manage insect pests using practices that protect the ecosystem. The position is headquartered at the Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the advisor will work in an area with a wide variety of stone fruit, nut crops and grapes.

A master’s degree in entomology or integrated pest management is required, though more advanced degrees in these disciplines are encouraged. An educational background or work experience in pest management, crop production and plant health is preferred. A demonstrated ability in applied agricultural research and extension of information is desirable. Excellent written, oral and interpersonal communication skills are required. Extension experience is desirable.

To assure full consideration, application packets must be received by May 31 (open until filled). For the complete position description, visit http://ucanr.edu/jobs/jobs_990/?jobnum=407.

Humboldt and Del Norte counties: Livestock/Natural Resource Advisor

Serving Humboldt and Del Norte counties, the advisor will develop and conduct applied research and demonstration projects that test livestock, pasture and range practices and strategies that enhance rangeland and wildlife habitat, water quality and food safety. The position is based in Eureka and the advisor will work with pasture-based beef and dairy producers.

A master’s degree is required, though more advanced degrees are encouraged, in animal science, rangeland management or other closely related fields. The ideal applicant will have one degree in animal science and one degree in rangeland management or have the minimum coursework to be a Certified Rangeland Manager within five years of date of hire; see http://casrm.rangelands.org/HTML/certified.html. Extension experience is desirable.

To read the full position vacancy announcements and application procedures, visit http://ucanr.edu/jobs/jobs_990/?jobnum=406. To assure full consideration, applications should be submitted by May 20 (open until filled).

Sustainability webinars on May 31, June 13

The UC ANR Sustainable Food Systems Initiative, UC ANR Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program and Agricultural Sustainability Institute at UC Davis are sponsoring a series of free webinars.

Neil McRoberts, assistant professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at UC Davis, will present “Sustainability: Linking Theory to Practice” from 10 a.m. to noon on May 31.

McRoberts will discuss

- Using formal models for strategic planning of extension and outreach efforts
- Cross-linking of interdisciplinary scientists
- Sustainability theory Web resources

Online registration for McRoberts’s webinar is required at http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveyNumber=10668.

On June 13, Ermias Kebreab, professor in the Department of Animal Science at UC Davis and Sesnon Endowed Chair in Sustainable Agriculture, will discuss “Environmental Sustainability of Animal Agriculture.” The Kebreab webinar will also run from 10 a.m. to noon.

Kebreab will discuss

- Sustainability as a “wicked problem”
- Water quality and livestock production
- Mitigation of air emissions from livestock operation


Tom Tomich, professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at UC Davis, WK. Kellogg Endowed Chair in Sustainable Food Systems and director of ASI and SAREP, kicked off the series with sustainability science. If you missed Tomich’s webinar, a recording can be viewed at http://asi.ucdavis.edu/newsroom/blog/preview-video-for-the-upcoming-webinar-is-there-a-sustainability-science.

Child abuse and neglect reporting policy takes effect May 25

The California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) requires that employers of “mandated reporters,” as defined in CANRA, promote the identification and reporting of child abuse or neglect. UC’s new policy related to reporting of child abuse and neglect will become effective May 25, 2013.

This policy describes the legal requirements that UC is obligated to implement and enforce. To help ensure that any concerns of child abuse or neglect are promptly reported, the University is requiring internal reporting as well.

To read the CANRA policy, visit http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Administration/Business_Operations/Controller/Administrative_Policies_-_Business_Contracts/Policies_and_administrative_handbooks/

ANR employees who wish to provide comments on the proposed policy may submit them to Robin Sanchez at rgsanchez@ucanr.edu by Friday, May 24, 2013.
Pitesky named poultry specialist

Maurice Pitesky joined the UC Davis Department of Population Health and Reproduction as a Cooperative Extension assistant specialist for poultry health and food safety epidemiology, effective May 1.

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’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 California Rural Crime Prevention Task Force, the California Poultry Federation, the American Association of Avian Pathologists, and the Western Poultry Disease Conference.

His most recent research into diseases of strategic economic importance to California (published this year in Avian Diseases) includes a comparison of surveillance methods for Salmonella enteritidis utilized by the Food and Drug Administration (the “Egg Safety Rule”) and the State of California (the “California Egg Quality Assurance Program”), and historical, spatial, temporal and time-space epidemiology of very virulent infectious bursal disease in California.

Pitesky can be reached at (530) 752-3215 and mepitesky@ucdavis.edu.

– Trina Wood

Roberts joins Staff Personnel

Mary Roberts joined ANR Staff Personnel Unit on April 24 as a human resource analyst. Roberts will serve as first point of contact in the unit’s E-Service portal and also support the administrative needs of executive director Linda Manton.

For the past five years, Roberts worked as a personnel specialist with the Human Resource Unit in the Department of Plant Sciences at UC Davis. She has university experience with both staff and academic personnel needs.

Prior to joining UC Davis in 2008, Roberts gained business and human resource experience as the director of operations and research for an executive recruiting firm serving the financial services industry and as an office manager for an electrical contracting and distribution company. Roberts holds a B.S. in business management, a professional human resource certificate and is completing a certification program in human resource management with UC Davis Extension.

Roberts can be reached at (530) 752-4540, maroberts@ucdavis.edu, maroberts@ucanr.edu or through the unit’s E-Service at anrstaffpersonnel@ucanr.edu.

Heraty lands $566,000 grant

An entomologist at the University of California, Riverside has received a three-year $566,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to study a group of wasps that specialize as parasitoids of ants.

John Heraty, a professor of entomology and the principal investigator of the grant, will study the eucharitid wasp genus Orasema, a specialized group of ant parasitoids (parasites that kill their host) known to attack some of the most pestiferous and invasive ants, including fire ants and the big-headed ant.

Ants make up one of the most successful insect groups on the planet. Their often large, complex societies are built around feeding and nurturing the egg-laying queen and protecting their brood from a tremendous array of natural enemies.

Few insects have been able to broach their formidable defenses. Eucharitid wasps are an exception.

Hodel named Researcher of the Year

The Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture named Don Hodel, UCCE advisor in Los Angeles County, Researcher of the Year for his work on palms and trees and his contributions to their journal Western Arborist. Hodel received the award at the chapter’s annual meeting in Indian Wells.

Hodel’s book Loulu: The Hawaii Palm won top honors in the 2013 Ka Palapala Po’okela Awards for Excellence in Natural Sciences. The Hawaii book Publishers’ Association sponsors the Ka Palapala Po’okela Awards, which annually recognize the top books in each of 12 categories, of which natural sciences is one. Ka Palapala Po’okela means excellent or exemplary manuscript in Hawaiian.

Villalobos wins iPad

Elizabeth Villalobos, nutrition program coordinator in Fresno County, won the iPad awarded for participating in the Work Environment Assessment. Last fall, VP Barbara Allen-Diaz promised to add an iPad to the drawing for gifts if more than 60 percent of ANR members completed the survey.
CE to celebrate 100th anniversary in 2014

Planning is underway for celebrating Cooperative Extension’s 100th anniversary in 2014. ANR members will find resources in an online toolkit for communicating to clientele and their communities how the public has benefitted in the past, and continues to benefit today, from UC Cooperative Extension.

Although the centennial is next year, everyone should start thinking now about how we can get clientele and community involved in local events.

“You are the time to start planting the seeds for community support,” said Yana Valachovic, UCCE director for Humboldt and Del Norte counties and co-chair of the UCCE centennial planning committee with Rose Hayden-Smith, UCCE advisor in Ventura County and strategic initiative leader for Sustainable Food Systems.

The first UCCE office opened in Humboldt County in July 1913, so Valachovic will hold their gala centennial celebration on Sept. 13. The Humboldt County Fair and the Redwood Acres Fair will also pay tribute to the UCCE centennial this year.

“Redwood Acres is hosting a dinner for 250 people,” Valachovic said. “Because they heard about our centennial last year, they decided that they could have their event honor us and now all I have to do is to prepare a 20-minute presentation. I don’t have to plan the event.”

The UCCE centennial brand toolkit contains the UCCE centennial logo, a centennial wrap to enhance SiteBuilder websites, historical background, historical photos, PowerPoint templates and a 70-second YouTube video about UCCE that can be embedded on websites and shared on social media. More templates and materials are being developed and will be added to the toolkit at http://ucanr.edu/100brand.

The UCCE centennial committee needs your help in collecting information about our history and accomplishments over the past 100 years. You can submit anecdotes and photos at http://ucanr.edu/history. The stories and photos will be used to represent the wide array of UCCE activities on the UCCE centennial website, in Twitter messages we send throughout the year, in news releases and at special events.

Sign up for branding toolkit training in June

ANR Branding Toolkit trainings are coming to Davis on June 5 and the South Coast REC on June 21. Both trainings will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and include lunch.

Advance registration is required. To sign up, visit the ANR Branding Toolkit website at http://ucanr.org/sites/Toolkit. Travel support is limited, so please choose the location that is closer to you.

This training gives participants a look at the ANR brand, the ANR brand promise, and how we are building the brand to create better awareness. You’ll learn how to use the brand elements to promote your programs and events. The training will cover the latest changes to the Toolkit, the new Style Guide and the Cooperative Extension centennial resources.

For more information, contact Cynthia Kintigh at cckintigh@ucanr.edu or (530) 754-3911.
Systemwide smoke- and tobacco-free policy elicits comments

ANR has received a lot of comments – both pro and con – on UC’s smoke and tobacco-free policy, which goes into effect systemwide Jan. 1, 2014.

“We appreciate the ANR employees who took time to comment and share their thoughts on this important issue. That said, it’s important to remember that ANR has no discretion over the policy – by Presidential mandate, it will go into effect for the entire UC system no later than January 1, 2014,” said Catherine Montano, director of Administrative Policies and Business Contracts. “In fact, UCLA implemented their policy on April 22.”

While several ANR employees have asked about e-cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, the policy does prohibit their use on UC property.

The policy applies to all UC campuses and all other properties owned or occupied by UC, including ANR’s research and extension centers. We realize that this policy will be difficult for some, and we have provided information on proven methods of quitting at http://ucanr.edu/sites/tobaccofree/Resources.

Users of tobacco products are encouraged to prepare to handle cravings during the workday with the use of nicotine replacement options such as gums, patches and so on as an alternative to leaving UC property.

Employees are invited to comment on this policy until June 17. Please send comments to Robin Sanchez, principal analyst, at rgsanchez@ucanr.edu. To read some of the comments received about the policy, scroll below the main message at http://ucanr.org/sites/anrstaff/?blogpost=10267&blogasset=421. – Catherine Montano

Mendocino County celebrates 100 years of 4-H

The Mendocino County 4-H’ers, families and alumni gathered on May 5 to celebrate the centennial of the 4-H Program in California.

UCCE advisor emeritus Pete Passof outlined the mission of UC Cooperative Extension and how it works in the counties.

Mendocino County First District Supervisor Carre Brown, who was a 4-H leader for 17 years, shared with the audience some of the history and evolution of 4-H and its importance to the nation’s agricultural roots. Brown presented a special Proclamation from the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors commemorating the event.

Eight families that had 100 years of 4-H membership received special recognition. Linda Edgington, 4-H program representative in Mendocino County, presented a commemorative plate to Sandy Cohen, whose family has participated in 4-H for a combined 170 years. The event was held in Rod Shippey Hall at the Hopland Research and Extension Center.

The hall is named for the late and much-loved farm advisor. Shippey’s widow Arlene Shippey and daughter Suzie attended the event.

Linda Edgington, left, presents commemorative plate to Sandy Cohen and her family for 100-plus years of 4-H membership.