

to change as needs change. Adaptability will continue to be important to maintaining Extension's viability in the future.

"Today, agriculture and natural resources are inextricably interwoven with the social and economic development of California," says Farrell.

Farrell is convinced that economic constraints reflecting scarcity of natural resources and the need to maintain environmental quality must be incorporated into research.

A host of natural resource management challenges—drainage, water and air quality, land use planning, production systems, and the relationships between chemicals in the food supply and human health—are fertile fields for new directions in research and extension.

Funding for Cooperative Extension will remain tight. County governments, with limited ability to increase their tax base as a result of voter-passed state initiatives, are finding it increasingly difficult to fund all programs. "We're in the same category as libraries—one of the few nonmandated programs that the county has the flexibility to cut to gain funding for its mandated programs," says Modoc County Extension director Savage.

"We've had to cut travel and close a county-supported research station," he adds. "Capital outlays are a thing of the past," "It's not that they don't like us. They just don't have any other options."

Federal and state budgets also are going to continue the recent trend of no-growth funding.

That does not rule out the possibility of a major new initiative that could draw broad support from diverse interest groups, according to Farrell. He cites youth-related needs, biotechnology, water quality, natural resources management, and low-chemical-input agricultural production as possibilities for new support.

Private funding sources also are playing an increasing role in University programs and offer another potential source of support for agricultural research and extension. "The key," says Farrell, "is to develop innovative private-public research mechanisms that provide incentives for private investment."

It is unrealistic, however, to expect to find large new sources of funds for every high-priority need. "To do more of something, we will have to do less of something else. And we must find ways to stretch our resources by being more efficient in how we conduct our programs," explains Farrell.

The authors of the Smith-Lever Act had a dream for more productive agriculture and increased quality of life for rural America. That dream created a 75-year success story. Today, the men and women working in California's Cooperative Extension are investing their knowledge and energy in continuing the success story in the 1990s and on into the 21st century.

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John Stumbos

New era for agricultural research in the San Joaquin Valley

Agricultural research in the San Joaquin Valley begins a new chapter as scientists settle into their new \$5-million building at the University of California Kearney Agricultural Center in Parlier. Formal dedication of the research and teaching complex is scheduled for May 26.

Originally a demonstration site for University research, Kearney has grown tremendously in breadth and stature, attracting an international cadre of agricultural researchers. Applied and basic research covers a broad range of commodities, especially the Valley's stone fruit, nut, and vine crops.

Twenty UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources scientists are permanently based at Kearney. More than 100 others from the UC Berkeley, Davis, and Riverside campuses, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and nearby Cooperative Extension offices regularly conduct research at the center. The new facility will help them maintain the San Joaquin Valley's prominence as one of the most fruitful regions on earth.

The 100 or more active research projects at Kearney typically involve a number of scientists analyzing different aspects of crop production and interaction with the environment. For instance, one researcher is examining various plantings of high-density tree fruit, while another is studying their water use. Other studies have included new methods of pest management, improved irrigation strategies, air pollution effects on crops, mosquito control techniques, and use of cover crops.

The new building's four two-story wings surround a central courtyard. Its 30,000 square feet of state-of-the-art research facilities, including 16 fully equipped laboratories, give the Division's faculty, farm advisors, and specialists greater control over their research environment.

An auditorium seating 250 people will provide growers, visiting scientists, and others with an on-site setting for conferences and workshops. The auditorium can be separated with dividers into three soundproof rooms.

The 330-acre Kearney Agricultural Center is one of the most active of the University's nine field stations. It was founded in 1962 as the Kearney Horticultural Field Station with funds raised by area growers and contributions from the University. The center is dedicated to M. Theodore Kearney, a 19th century pioneer who helped develop the Fresno region. Its name change in the early 1980s reflects the University's greater emphasis on research, education, and extension for the site.