

**Area Plant Pathology Farm Advisor  
UCCE Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties**

**Position Title:** **Area Plant Pathology Advisor**, to conduct an extension education and applied problem-solving research program in plant pathology for the agricultural clientele of Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. Provide leadership, information transfer, and technical help in the diagnosis, prevention, and alleviation of plant diseases for a wide range of primary clientele including producers, associated agribusiness individuals and agencies, and other support personnel. Provide information and advice to those who need to make sound disease management decisions. Participate in other research areas dealing with microorganisms, such as fungal ecology and produce-food microbiology.

**Position: Briefly describe:** (1) *general disciplinary focus:* plant pathology; (2) *educational and professional background requirements:* a Master's degree in plant pathology or related discipline is required; coursework or experience in diagnosis, plant nematology and microbiology is helpful; and (3) *how the position will report, work, and interact with the supporting units (county, multi-county areas, department, statewide program, REC, etc.):* Develop and maintain a program under administrative responsibility to the County Director. Establish and maintain good working relationships with producers and growers, pest control advisers, and associated industry personnel and agencies. Create research and education programs that include collaboration with University of California researchers and specialists, other Farm Advisors, UC IPM Program, and pertinent federal, state, and local agencies involved with the field of study. Prepare reports as required and requested by grantors, ANR, UCCE offices, and CD.

**Justification:** *What are the top 2-3 issues that will be addressed and what is the likelihood of significant outcomes and impact?* Native and invasive diseases affecting the agriculture and natural ecosystems in the tri-county area are substantial hurdles for economic sustainability of agriculture and natural systems. Avoiding outbreaks of produce-foodborne illnesses caused by human microbial pathogens requires further field and laboratory research. *What substantiates the need for the position?* The gross value of agriculture in the tri-county area surpassed \$5.26 billion in 2016. The recent retirement of Steve Koike left a vacuum in traditional plant pathology diagnostic service to the clientele that requires immediate attention. *Explain the need for ANR to invest in the new position.* *How does this position address the needs and priorities of external stakeholders (e.g. commodity boards, state agencies, community organizations)?* We have the support for this position from the following organizations and commodity boards: Central Coast Grower-Shipper Association, Monterey County Farm Bureau, California Leafy Green Research Board, California Artichoke Advisory Board, California Celery Research Advisory Board, California Garlic & Onion Research Advisory Board, California Pepper Commission, and California Association of Pest Control Advisers (CAPCA); Federal Agencies such as USDA-ARS Salinas, RCD Monterey County, and NRCS; community educational organizations such as Hartnell Community College and California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB).

**Extension:** *Outline extension activities that the position will be expected to fulfill:* Conduct a highly visible educational program using meetings, seminars, newsletters, publications, blogs, and field visits to keep clientele informed of current disease problems and disease management options; plan and conduct diagnostic and advisory programs in such a way as to provide equitable service to all interested minority groups that comprise the potential clientele; plan and conduct educational programs so that information is available to all interested groups that comprise the potential clientele. Encourage the involvement of underserved groups through a pro-active outreach effort; *the key clientele groups the academic will be expected to interact with, and the anticipated nature of these interactions:* a wide range of primary clientele including producers, associated agribusiness individuals and agencies, and other support personnel, providing technical information to clientele through farm calls, office visits, telephone conversations, e-mail, and laboratory analyses of plant samples. Anticipated impacts are a better knowledge of phytopathological problems and capabilities for an educated research-based solution.

**Research:** *Identify the specific key research areas or topics the position will be expected to address, and the expected publication outlets for that research (both within ANR and external).* This is a highly applied problem-solving research program that is based on the phytopathological needs of clientele. Conduct field, greenhouse and laboratory research with the support and involvement of appropriate university faculty and specialists, industry personnel, and other appropriate agencies. Expected publication outlets include but not limited to peer-reviewed journals, informational leaflets, reports, newsletter articles, and blogs.

**ANR Network:** *Explain how the position would significantly augment the capacity of the ANR network.* The plant pathology position plays a key role in bringing the ANR network to bear on issues related to plant pathology. This position plays a critical role in the diagnosis of disease for the served counties, but also is a critical resource to other parts of the state in providing diagnostic services on horticultural crops for growers, crop consultants, home owners and extension personnel in other areas of the state. In order to successfully address these issues this position must draw upon the expertise of AES scientists, UCCE Specialists, USDA-ARS Salinas scientists, as well as advisors with expertise in other fields such as plant nutrition, weed science and entomology. This position also complements the other discipline based advisors in the tri-county area to address the needs of the vegetable industry and supports the commodity advisors in viticulture, berries and ornamentals. *What are the generally acknowledged gaps in this network?* There is also a great need for a fully equipped plant pathology laboratory with capabilities of diagnosing emerging diseases in other regions of the state.

**Network External to ANR:** *When appropriate, identify any additional networks (e.g. scientists, agencies, policy makers, community groups, etc.) with whom the advisor/specialist will be expected to collaborate. Describe the nature of the collaboration.* Close collaboration in plant pathology related matters with USDA-ARS Salinas, local University and Colleges, and the commodity research boards.

**Support:** *Describe the level of support for transportation, office space, supplies and equipment, research costs, etc. that the position will be provided by each supporting unit(s).* UCCE Monterey provides 2 field vehicles for plant pathology advisor and future staff; advisor has a private office with computer and connectivity, phone lines, two fully equipped plant pathology laboratories, growth chambers, spray equipment, sheds, greenhouse and shade-house space; county provides with farm advisor assistant, receptionist, secretary, accounting technician and administrative service assistant for all programs; our annual county budget is in average ~\$450K/year and provides plenty for office supplies and all office equipment; UCCE Monterey provides with a 200 capacity A/V equipped auditorium plus access to several smaller conference rooms, a library, storage building, parking space, etc. *If the position is multicounty describe the support that each county will commit to provide.* Grower's mailing lists, support and access to conference rooms, shared workspace.

**Other support:** *Identify any other specific sources of funding or support that the person will be able (or expected) to compete for in order to develop and support their program(s).* Federal and state agencies competitive grants and commodity board funds. Donations from pesticide companies and other various donors.

**Location:** *Explain and justify the proposed home location for the position.* Headquartered in UCCE Monterey.

**Developed and proposed by:** *Which internal stakeholders (e.g. Program Teams, Workgroups) and external stakeholders were involved in the development of the position?* Internal stakeholders: UCCE Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties' advisors; ANR Program Teams: Environmental Horticulture, Pest Management, and Vegetable Crops. ANR Workgroups: Floriculture & Nursery, Peppers, Plant Pathology, Vegetable Crops and Warm Season Vegetables. External stakeholders: Grower-Shipper Association, Monterey County Farm Bureau, California Leafy Green Research Board, California Artichoke Advisory Board, California Celery Research Advisory Board, California Garlic & Onion Research Advisory Board, California Pepper Commission, and California Association of California Pest Control Advisers (CAPCA).