

Harper to lead Sustainable Natural Ecosystems Strategic Initiative



John Harper

John Harper has agreed to lead the Sustainable Natural Ecosystems Strategic Initiative for a two-year appointment. As the SNE initiative leader, John will serve on Program Council.

Harper has been a UC Cooperative Extension advisor specializing in livestock and natural resources for 23 years in Mendocino and Lake counties. His research covers sheep and goat production, range cattle production, rangeland, watershed, water quality and computer applications. As an advisor, he has worked with fellow UCCE advisors, specialists and Agricultural Experiment Station scientists on several research and education projects. He served as UCCE director for Mendocino County for 13 years, and also oversaw UCCE in Lake County for four of those years.

"John has been an integral part of local, statewide and regional projects addressing critical natural resources issues," said Bill Frost, associate vice president. "These efforts have provided him with a good understanding of the breadth of ANR. He has demonstrated a good vision for expanding involvement in the initiative as well as revisiting the initiative's strategic plan."

Harper succeeds James Bartolome, professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at UC Berkeley, who retired.

For more information about the SNE strategic initiative, visit http://ucanr.edu/sites/StrategicInitiatives/Sustainable_Natural_Ecosystems.



UCCE Ventura celebrates Science and Service

The staff of UCCE Ventura County and Hansen Agricultural Research and Extension Center pose with AVP Bill Frost and Research and Extension Centers associate director Lisa Fischer, center, next to a Model T truck loaded with products grown in the county. On Jan. 29, the group hosted a half-day research symposium, "Celebrating Science and Service," in honor of the Cooperative Extension centennial. About 130 community members attended.

INSIDE:

WEDA seeks nominations for Awards of Excellence	2
Sierra Foothill REC seeks proposals ...	2
Standard mileage rate decreases.....	2
AFRI grants program adds CARE section.....	2
Names in the News	3
UCOP launches new website for employees and retirees	4
Development Services reorganizes....	4
In Memoriam.....	5
UCCE to give talks at World Ag Expo.....	5

UC tobacco-free policy now in effect

ANR got the new year off to a healthy start as the systemwide smoke- and tobacco-free policy went into effect on Jan. 1, 2014. Smoking, use of smokeless tobacco products and use of unregulated nicotine products (e-cigarettes) are no longer allowed on any property owned or leased by UC, indoors or outdoors, including parking lots, roadways and residential spaces.

ANR's tobacco-free environment policy will be enforced by education and example. All members of the ANR community are encouraged to courteously and respectfully ask individuals to comply with the policy. We are confident that, in time, the entire ANR

community will come to recognize the value of the policy and will choose to comply.

ANR understands that compliance with this policy may be very challenging, however, we hope it will motivate people to quit using tobacco products. Numerous resources are available to help, including smoking cessation classes and 24/7 counseling over the phone. You can find this information as well as the UC policy at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/tobaccofree>.

Tu Tran
Associate Vice President,
Business Operations

WEDA seeks nominations for Awards of Excellence

AVP Bill Frost is soliciting nominations for the Western Extension Directors Association's Awards of Excellence. The purpose of the Awards of Excellence is to recognize Cooperative Extension outreach education programming that has achieved outstanding accomplishments, results and impacts in addressing contemporary issues in one or more of the 13 Western states and territories. It is anticipated that recipients of the award will include mature programs with documented impacts.

The WEDA Awards of Excellence may be given annually to recognize up to three state or multistate programs that represent the work of an individual or multidisciplinary team within a single or multistate setting. If warranted, at least one of the awards will be given to a multistate program. Award winners will be asked to present an overview of their programs at the joint summer meeting of the Western Extension Directors and Western Agricultural Experiment Station Directors in July. This year's meeting will be held in the Lake Tahoe area.

For more information, including a template for submittal, go to <http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/182060.doc>. Please submit your nominations to Joan Warren at jtwarren@ucanr.edu by the end of the day Friday, Feb. 28. A small group will review the nominations and recommend two programs for Frost to nominate from California.

Standard mileage rate decreases

The university's mileage reimbursement rates for expenses incurred in connection with the business use of a private automobile will decrease in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rates published in Announcement IR 2011-69. The new rates are effective for expenses incurred on or after Jan. 1, 2014.

The reimbursement rate for the use of a private automobile for University business travel will decrease from 56.5 cents a mile to 56.0 cents a mile. [Appendix A](#) of Business and Finance Bulletin G-28, Policy and Regulations Governing Travel, will be revised to include this change.

The reimbursement rate for driving or shipping an automobile in connection with a move or relocation will decrease from 24.0 cents a mile to 23.5 cents a mile. Business and Finance Bulletin G-13, Policy and Regulations Governing Moving and Relocation, will be revised to incorporate this change.

Sierra Foothill REC seeks proposals

The Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center (SFREC) is soliciting proposals for new and continuing research for the upcoming program year, July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015.

Proposals are due at SFREC by Feb. 28, 2014. The center expects to award approximately 3,600 hours of labor to assist new and continuing research projects.

The center comprises 5,721 acres of northern Sierra foothill oak woodland–annual grass rangeland. Several watersheds fall within its boundaries, with Yuba River frontage along the southern edge, offering opportunities for wildlife, water-quality and riparian-habitat studies. There are 160 acres of irrigated pasture. The dryland pasture and irrigated pasture are grazed with various densities and classes of beef cattle, depending on forage availability and research needs.

Other resources include a weather station, GIS database, and long-term databases on hardwood and annual rangeland pasture production and management, stream hydrology and beef cattle production. Facilities include a laboratory for preparation of wet and dry samples, meeting rooms, a 14-bed dormitory and five cattle-working areas. Proposals are to be submitted via ANR's Universal Review System accessed through the UC ANR Portal.

For further information regarding research opportunities, contact Jeremy James, SFREC director at (530) 639-8803 or jjjames@ucanr.edu, or visit the SFREC website at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/sfrec>.



AFRI grants program adds CARE section

The FY 2014 USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative request for grant applications offers a new section this year called "Critical Agricultural Research and Extension" (CARE).

The FY 2014 AFRI Foundational Initiative request for applications can be found at <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/foundationalprogramafri.cfm>. This page includes links to the request for applications, the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide, the application package and abstracts of funded projects.

Names in the News

Church joins ANR budget staff

Zach Church joined the ANR Resource Planning and Management Office (for-



Zach Church

merly known as the Budget Office) as the associate director on Jan. 13. He succeeds Regina Ranoa,

who transferred to the UCOP Budget Office.

Prior to joining ANR, Church served as a senior budget analyst for the National Park Service since 2010 and for seven years with the Office of Management and Budget. He also served as principal assistant to former California Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Fred Keeley and as a policy advisor to the California Public Utilities Commission, California Air Resources Board, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, California Department of Toxic Substances Control and U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

He holds a Master in Public Policy degree with an emphasis in energy and environmental policy from Harvard University and bachelor's degrees in geography and political economy of natural resources (the latter from the College of Natural Resources at UC Berkeley).

Church is located at UCOP in Room 10121 and can be reached at (510) 987-0053 or zach.church@ucop.edu.

Wais joins Program Support Unit

Saundra Wais has joined the Program Support Unit. She has worked at UC Davis for 26 years, 24 of those in the School of Veterinary Medicine. Her last position was continuing education coordinator for the Center for Continuing Professional Education in the School of Veterinary Medicine.



Saundra Wais

From 2000 to 2002, Wais worked in the Department of Land, Air and Water Resources in the College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences at UC Davis as a supervisor and lead for Academic Merits and Promotions.

She earned a meeting planning certificate from Sacramento State University and completed the UC Davis event planning certificate series.

Wais is located in the new ANR building in Davis and can be reached at (530) 750-1260 and sjwais@ucanr.edu.

Dubcovsky wins Wolf Prize

Jorge Dubcovsky, a professor in the Department of Plant Sciences at UC Davis, was named a co-recipient of the 2014 Wolf Prize in Agriculture, sharing the prize with Leif Andersson from Uppsala University in Sweden.



Jorge Dubcovsky

In selecting Dubcovsky, the Wolf Foundation committee wrote that his research achievements are "truly impressive" and that Dubcovsky's "combined basic and applied approach was able to dramatically improve the nutritional value of wheat, and the impact of the discoveries was increased when they were made available to the scientific community."

Since joining UC Davis in 1996, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation investigator has conducted pioneering research in mapping and isolating genes in wheat's massive genome and deploying those genes in wheat cultivars. Dubcovsky and his laboratory colleagues have identified and cloned genes involved in disease resistance, protein content, flowering and frost tolerance. Identification of these important genes has enabled researchers and breeders to accelerate the development of more nutritious and better-adapted wheat varieties.

The \$100,000 Wolf Prize is awarded annually by the Wolf Foundation to outstanding scientists and artists in the fields of agriculture, chemistry, physics, mathematics, medicine and the arts. This year five prizes were awarded to eight individuals in four countries.

The Wolf Prize laureates will receive their awards in May from the president of Israel and Israel's minister of education during a ceremony at the Knesset Building in Jerusalem.

George named Range Manager of Year

Holly George, UC Cooperative Extension advisor and director for Plumas and Sierra counties, was honored by the California Pacific Section Society for Range Management as Range Manager of the Year for 2013.

George, a livestock and natural resource advisor, was given a beautiful burl plaque at a ceremony during the California Rangeland Coalition Summit in Oakdale on Jan. 21



Holly George with her Range Manager of the Year award

UCOP launches new website for employees and retirees

The Office of the President (OP) is launching a new website on Feb. 6 that aims to make life easier for faculty, staff and retirees.

The new site, called UCnet, is the fruit of more than two years of development by OP's communications team and is part of a broader strategic initiative to improve the university's websites. UCnet (ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu) is meant to make it simpler for employees and retirees to keep up with what's happening at UC, find information about benefits and policies and quickly access personal accounts. It's also designed to allow users to learn about and engage with colleagues around the system and build a stronger sense of community.

UCnet will replace At Your Service as the source of information about benefits and as the portal to At Your Service Online and Fidelity retirement accounts. At Your Service Online, the password-protected portal that employees use to access their personal pay and benefits information, will remain in use.

UCnet will also offer timely news about UC and a wide array of tools and resources such as a gateway to systemwide data and interest groups.

"UCnet is designed to be a source of news and a home for resources and transactions for UC employees and retirees," said Paul Schwartz, UC's director of internal communications. "Our goal was to give employees and retirees a site that makes it easy to get information, conduct personal business and stay connected with the UC community."

UCnet is one of three new websites created by OP communications in the past year to improve university information and resources offered online. The other two are ucop.edu (<http://www.ucop.edu/>), the OP's website, which launched last year, and UCal (universityofcalifornia.edu), a site for prospective students, parents and other external audiences.

UCnet is organized into five sections, each with its own distinct focus. The Home page, where most readers will start, will serve as UCnet's "front page," containing top news about what's going at UC, a sampling of top items from other sections of UCnet and links to other important parts of the site.

The News section will offer visitors news stories about the university. It will be organized around five categories, including administration, employment and people. All in all, UCnet's news section will offer a much richer selection of news about UC than At Your Service. The section will also have a frequently updated "UC in the news" section containing some of the best and most interesting items about UC from news outlets around the world.

The Working at UC section will be a window into the diverse and fascinating community of university employees. There will be in-depth stories about faculty and staff, opportunities to connect with people at other campuses and links to campus websites around the system. The section will also contain

information about how staff can develop their careers, how to manage work-life balance and other career-related resources.

Compensation & Benefits will be the section for users who want information about pay, benefits, how to handle a life event and other employment- or retirement-related matters. The section will contain comprehensive "roadmaps" to guide employees through events like having a baby, changing jobs within UC or preparing for retirement.

Last, the Tools & Services section is the go-to page when searching for a policy, data tool or information about UC's libraries. The section will also contain details on travel services, publishing, research grants and wellness and safety on the job.

UCOP has a Twitter account for UC employees. Follow [@UC_net](https://twitter.com/UC_net) on Twitter.

Development Services reorganizes

In July 2013, ANR implemented an organizational change to create one Development Services unit dedicated to the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, by expanding the roles and responsibilities of the staff previously dedicated to the 4-H Youth Development Program alone through the California 4-H Foundation.

The Office of Development Services has served ANR since 1999 by providing development administrative and policy guidance, fund development advice and assistance, endowment stewardship and oversight of retiree relations.

Since 1971, the California 4-H Foundation has been dedicated to raising private funds to support the University of California 4-H Youth Development Program. It is a separately incorporated 501(c)3 organization and is a recognized University of California Support Group. In 1995, the foundation's employees became ANR employees.

This organizational change enables the Development Services staff to facilitate coordinated fundraising efforts to maximize resources for growth and sustainability of ANR's initiatives and programs. The California 4-H Foundation will continue to exist, and programs and activities planned before the change are still moving forward. Donations solicited for support of the 4-H Youth Development Program will continue to be directed to the foundation. The staff, however, will have responsibilities beyond the 4-H Youth Development Program. Goals have been established that align with ANR's strategic vision.

"The staff very much looks forward to continuing to work with colleagues throughout the Division to advance ANR's strategic mission," said Cindy Barber, director. For a list of staff, visit ucanr.edu/Development_services.

In Memoriam

Dean Donaldson, UC Cooperative Extension director and advisor emeritus, died on Dec. 20, 2013. He was 71.



Dean Donaldson

Donaldson earned his B.S. in plant pathology at UC Davis and M.S. in weed science from Oregon State University. He was hired in 1969 as a UCCE horticulture advisor for Napa, Sonoma and Marin counties. In 1972, he also assumed the role of UCCE director in Napa County.

During his 31-year career, Donaldson authored or contributed to many UCCE publications such as *How to Grow Your Own Firewood*, *Heating Your Home with Firewood*, *Christmas Tree Weed Control*, *Western Gall Rust*, *Cover Cropping in Vineyards*, *Grape Pest Management*, and *Efficient Lawn Irrigation Can Help You Save Water*. He also authored dozens of county leaflets targeting local problems on a wide range of topics including Christmas tree training, forest tree culture, soil management, orchard care, home garden pest and disease management, turf-grass care and landscape water use.

Donaldson was involved in a wide variety of research projects to address local and regional problems during his career. Most of these research projects resulted in statewide CE publication reports or summary reports in California Agriculture. As an advisor, Donaldson influenced some countywide public policy issues regarding impacts of irrigation with recycled high-boron effluent at the local fairgrounds, impacts of county Agriculture Preserve zoning on the local economy, landscaping along the Napa River Project floodway and zoning and sign ordinance impacts on local small farms.

Donaldson initiated a UC Master Gardener Program in Napa County that now has 120 active volunteers. He contributed to the development of the UCCE Administrative Handbook for the Master Gardener program. He mentored several new advisors and was active on many selection committees and actively recruited new applicants.

As county director, Donaldson worked on maintaining staffing and office support funding for both agricultural and 4-H programs during difficult county fiscal times. He provided staff with proactive training about Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action outreach, achieving an "outstanding" review from a federal Affirmative Action audit team. He successfully instituted a programmatically proactive volunteer 4-H county Leaders' Council. He was instrumental in promoting understanding and garnering support for UCCE to remain an independent Napa County department during the "reinventing county government" phase, maintaining UCCE's role as an objective and non-regulatory provider of science-based information.

He is survived by his wife Marnie, daughter Katy, son Matthew, three grandchildren and sister Doreen.

An [Endowment Fund](#) for Environmental Horticulture Education in Napa County has been established in Donaldson's memory. If you wish to donate, please send a signed [gift/donation letter](#) along with a check payable to "Regents of the University of California" to Dean Donaldson Endowment Fund, c/o David Lewis, Director, UCCE Napa County, 1710 Soscol Avenue, Suite 4, Napa, CA 94559-1315.

A celebration of Donaldson's life is planned in the spring of 2014.

UCCE to give talks at World Ag Expo

To mark its 100th anniversary, UC Cooperative Extension will host a speaker series and family-friendly activities at the World Ag Expo, Feb. 11-13, in Tulare.

UCCE advisors, UCCE specialists and ANR leaders will give talks from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day at space K50, just east of Pavilion B.

The theme for opening day, Feb. 11, is "The good, the bad and the ugly: Species in California." Feb. 12 presentations focus on "Wholesome food for a hungry planet," featuring VP Barbara Allen-Diaz, who will speak about building on UC ANR research to help feed the world. The final day of the show, presenters will address the theme "Sustainable is attainable."

To see the schedule of speakers, visit <http://ucanr.edu/News/?blogpost=12421&blogasset=44547>.

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Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

Serving California through the creation, development and application of knowledge in agricultural, natural and human resources.

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