

RREA State Report FY 09-10

The University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources administers the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program of California. Our program uses the limited federal funds allocated annually by Congress to implement a competitive grants program. In FY 2009-10 we targeted revising and enhancing youth natural and animal science existing curriculum; UC Cooperative Extension advisors and specialists participated.

In FY 2009-10 the program received \$41,974 to support one project. The RREA program in California was not as active as usual during FY 2009-2010 due to the processes involved in extension reorganization within the entire UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

This reorganization involved programmatic efforts, including realignment with strategic initiatives, as well as administrative changes including the California director of the RREA program. In California we continue our commitment to utilizing the RREA funds on a competitive basis for projects aligned with national RREA goals and objective as well UC Agriculture and Natural Resources goals and objectives. In this light, we determined that it was prudent to defer use of some RREA funds until our strategic initiative panels were in place and focused plans were developed. In August of this year we distributed our call for proposals for RREA projects and has completed the initial review and award process. Going forward, California will be as active and more impactful in our part of the RREA program.

The Sustainable and Natural Resources and Agriculture 4-H SET Curriculum Research and Development Project This project is unique for its goal of reviewing and revising existing youth natural resources and animal science curriculum in order to have it conform to both the 4-H SET and UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources strategic initiatives, and published.

- Science literacy among California's and the nation's youth is low and has been stagnant or declining over the past decade and strategies to address this problem include developing youth programs that use active learning skills and expanding science education through the development of curricula for use in schools and community-based education like 4-H.
- Tested and gathered summative data from 24 participants at the summer 2010 Statewide 4-H Leadership conference and successfully assessed and revised the existing curriculum "*Our Rangelands*" to align it with the National 4-H SET initiative curriculum criteria.
- "*Without feeling overwhelming or inaccessible, the Our Rangelands curriculum introduces youth to a wide variety of topics. Activities touch on subjects ranging from environmental history, plant ecology, and animal nutrition to range management and stewardship. Using California's rangelands to explore and connect these concepts, the curriculum achieves a fresh and multidisciplinary approach that reflects the real-life complexity of rangeland productivity, ecology, and management.*" L. Porenskuy, PhD Candidate, Plant Sciences, UC Davis



Youth pilot-testing activities
Leadership conference, UC Davis

RREA in California has supported dozens of projects. Federal partnerships, like those supported through UC Cooperative Extension and RREA continue to make a difference at the local level and expand our impacts. Please visit our website: <http://rrea.ucanr.org> California RREA contact: William Frost, Assistant Director, UC Cooperative Extension, Ag Field Station Building, Davis, CA 95616, 530-752-3931, wefrost@ucdavis.edu