



Report

Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Oct. 16-Nov. 10, 2000 ■ Vol. 14 No. 3

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- Everything you need to know to attend Odyssey 2001, ANR statewide conference. Insert.
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Prop. 39 on Nov. 7 ballot

Ballot measure in support of K-12 endorsed by Regents

With California's K-12 public schools facing an increase of nearly one million students in the next decade, the UC Board of Regents endorsed the Smaller Classes, Safer Schools and Financial Accountability Act (Proposition 39) at its July meeting.

The proposition, which is on the November ballot, would allow local school bond issues to be passed with a 55 percent vote

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**SEE INSERT—
registration and
program info for
Division statewide
conference
(note: material will not be
sent under separate cover)**

UC Cooperative Extension educators, staff honored for outstanding performance

Twelve individuals and one team have received Distinguished Service Awards for the year 2000 from the Academic Assembly Council, which represents UC Cooperative Extension farm advisors and specialists.

"Recognizing our peers for extraordinary efforts to serve California through the creation, development and application of knowledge in agriculture and natural and human resources is both important and gratifying," said *Ron Vargas*, AAC president and director of Madera County CE. "These award recipients represent innovative and outstanding programs and activi-

ties indicative of the hundreds of ANR programs in communities throughout California. We congratulate each and every one of the recipients and commend them for upholding the University's standard of excellence."

In addition to a plaque, a \$100 cash award (\$200 for the team award) contributed by the California Farm Bureau Federation is given to each recipient.

The recipients will be honored at Odyssey 2001 in February (see insert for information about the conference).

This year, awards were made in the following categories:

■ Outstanding teaching by a farm or marine advisor—

Steven Sibbett, Tulare County. His vigorous and balanced program emphasizes teaching and grower innovation and application. Highlights include advances in walnut and olive pollination, pecan and walnut variety development, and cultural and harvesting practices of drying prunes.

■ Outstanding teaching 4-H and human development—

Richard Enfield, San Luis Obispo County. He has developed a statewide reputation for expertise on the characteristics of "resilient"
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Volunteers sought for pilot tests of video-conferencing equipment for ANR

By *Claudia Myers*

Here's one way to cut the time, expense and hassles of travel. Consider taking part in a pilot test of video-conferencing equipment designed to improve internal communication in the Division.

ANR Communication Services is seeking units, offices, committees or workgroups that want to be part of this pilot test. Advisors, specialists and staff are needed who would be willing to put in the effort necessary to make it work.

Conferencing technologies include video, audio, whiteboard, chat and application sharing.

We are looking for groups of up to eight individuals. We will come to your offices to install the equipment on your desktop or laptop computers, so you'll need to have fairly high-end computer equipment.

We will work closely with each user group. Among the variables we want to test during the pilot studies are connectivity method, band-

width, computer and conferencing equipment, and technical expertise of the users.

We will be asking users to evaluate this technology for factors such as ease of use, expertise required, video and audio quality, usefulness, affect on travel and whether internal communication is improved.

So if you are part of an ANR committee or group of eight people or less, dispersed geographically and needing to meet or collaborate in

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Distinguished Service Awards *(from p. 1)*

youth and how families, schools and communities work together to help young people resist peer pressure and increase interest in academics.

■ **Outstanding and creative teamwork** (academic and nonacademic staff in a statewide program)—UC Davis professor *John Miles* leads an interdisciplinary team of researchers focusing on occupational ergonomics, with an emphasis on creative ways to reduce skeletal muscular disorders in farmworkers. Coordinated through the Agricultural Ergonomics Research Center, the team has developed a national reputation as the foremost group of researchers of its kind and has influenced national occupational safety groups such as NIOSH to reorganize research priorities.

■ **Outstanding teaching by a specialist**—*Joan Wright*, UC Davis department of human and community development, has strengthened ANR connections with local, state and federal agencies as well as community-based organizations on diverse issues such as rural lands, wildland fire, welfare reform, Prop. 10 (tobacco tax) civic engagement, family relations, money management and leadership development.

■ **Outstanding research by a farm or marine advisor**—*Glenn Nader*, Butte/Sutter/Yuba counties. Nader has become a statewide leader in implementing successful strategies to manage yellow starthistle.

■ **Outstanding research by a specialist**—*John Klotz*, UC Riverside department of en-

tomology, has become nationally recognized for his groundbreaking research in urban entomology. His work focuses on reduced-risk pest management, employing baits and low-toxicity tactics for pest suppression. Of particular note is the use of boric acid baits having low mammalian toxicity coupled with high efficacy against pest ants.

■ **Outstanding clerical** (county or Universitywide)—*Millie Streeper*, Tulare County. In addition to assisting three advisors and the county director, she has supervisory responsibility over five secretaries and summer interns, pays all county and University bills and maintains all office and research grants, the Master Gardener account and publications.

■ **Outstanding support staff**—*Joe Padilla*, Kings County. In his 38 years of service to Kings County, he has helped dozens of advisors and specialists. In addition to his role as field assistant, he acts as Spanish-language interpreter at meetings and for research trials, as well as support staff for the 4-H advisor.

■ **Outstanding support staff** (University statewide)—*Margaret Brush*, assistant editor with UC's Statewide Integrated Pest Management Project. She is the principal designer for many IPM publications, such as the consumer-oriented Pest Notes and producer-oriented Pest Management Guidelines. She produced the unit's first publications with digitized photo images, as well as the first simultaneous hardcopy and web-based publications.

■ **Outstanding support staff** (University countywide)—*Michele Brown*, Alameda County. As the community health program representative, she reaches at-risk families with nutrition education and life skills training. Working with a variety of agencies and assisted by volunteers of many ethnicities, more than 300 families graduated from the Alameda County EFNEP and FSNEP programs as a result of her efforts. Her work is the basis of a major research project to develop a comprehensive body of knowledge on how parents' dietary, health and wellness practices affect their children.

■ **Outstanding outreach**—*Richard Molinar*, Fresno County small farm advisor. Each year he coordinates multiple workshops in several languages, as well as conducts tours and produces radio broadcasts. His efforts have been recognized by USDA. Major programmatic areas include alternatives to pesticides, pesticide safety and marketing.

■ **Outstanding outreach**—*Manuel Jimenez*, Tulare County small farm advisor. In addition to his regular CE programs, Jimenez is founder of Woodlake Pride, a grass-roots community improvement program that has sponsored major community development and beautification projects. He also produces and hosts a weekly Spanish-language live radio show focusing on agricultural production, home gardening, pest management, pesticide safety and family health.

■ **Fellowship for advanced studies**—*Roy Hillstock*, Los Angeles County. He is studying Network Technology at Southern California International College to improve computer-based systems for 4-H and other office programs. His goal is to set up a network in which all programs, fileprinters and other peripherals can be shared and protected.

Nominations for the next cycle of awards will be solicited in April, said *Rachel Elkins*, AAC Program Awards Committee chair.

Article is based on a press release written by Senior Public Information Representative John Stumbos. To read the full release, go to <http://danr.ucop.edu/news/>, ANR's News and Information Outreach website.

UC calls first-ever 'Lygus Summit'

The Lygus Workgroup has joined with the California Cotton Growers and Ginners Association, Alfalfa Seed Production Board and the California Dry Bean Advisory Board to sponsor the first-ever "Lygus Summit." The event will be held Nov. 28 in Visalia.

Lygus bugs attack a wide variety of crops—including cotton, seed alfalfa, strawberries, beans, tree fruit, celery, tomatoes and lettuce. "The summit provides an opportunity for all farmers, ag industry representatives and scientists for networking and collaboration," said *Pete Goodell*, IPM advisor and event coordinator. See "Coming Up" on page 4 for registration information.

ANR boosts web services for counties and programs

By Gary Beall

Communication Services has received a two-year ANR grant to help the Division develop a coordinated, consistent web presence.

According to *Claudia Myers*, information technology manager for Communication Services, the grant will support the following services:

- administering and maintaining a web server, including automatic backups, regular reports on site usage and a robust search tool for all sites on the server
- developing web-based collaborative tools, such as event calendar software, threaded email and shared document storage and retrieval
- creating a webpage template for county offices, with a web-based form that will allow counties to easily add, edit and delete text and images on their sites
- creating a webpage template for workgroups
- web design and programming consultation
- facilitating coordination and collaboration among the many groups within ANR with websites and expertise
- designing and creating regional office websites
- developing a web portal for ANR that links external clientele to county and campus programs, administrative offices, educational resources, news, events and employment opportunities and links ANR employees to administrative resources.

Communication Services has hired *Karl Krist*, a web programmer and server administrator, and *Valerie Griffith*, a web designer, to

develop the new services. The unit also is conducting a series of discussion groups this fall with county staff and workgroup members to determine their web development interests and needs. Feedback from these sessions will help guide programming and design decisions as the services are developed.

For further information, contact Krist (kakrist@ucdavis.edu), Griffith (vjgriffith@ucdavis.edu) or Myers (camyers@ucdavis.edu).

Beall, based at UC Davis, is academic coordinator for Communication Services.

Bell takes new post of invasive plants advisor

Regional Director *Susan Laughlin* has announced that Imperial County Weed Science Advisor *Carl Bell* will move into the newly created position of regional advisor for invasive plants on Nov. 1. Bell's assignment covers Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties. He will be headquartered in the San Diego County Cooperative Extension office. He can be reached at 858/694-3386.

"Maintaining natural areas that provide appropriate habitat for native wildlife is critical to preserving the state's biological diversity," Laughlin said. Invasive plants have been identified as the second most important threat to natural areas after commercial or residential development.

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JPC to host conference on technology transfer to farms

By *John Gutierrez*, Joint Policy Council coordinator

With the explosive growth of the high-technology industry, California is leading the nation into the Information Age. But is California's agricultural industry able to take full advantage of the new capabilities being developed in its own back yard?

Due to a lack of personnel trained to apply these technologies on farms, California farmers may be missing an opportunity to capitalize on the environmental, efficiency and productivity benefits promised by advanced information-gathering technologies.

To consider agriculture's high-tech workforce needs, the Joint Policy Council on Agriculture and Higher Education (JPC) will host a statewide conference entitled "Harvesting Technology for Agricultural Resource Management" on Feb. 15 in Tulare. The conference is timed to coincide with the final day of the World Agricultural Exposition (formerly the California Farm Show), also in Tulare, and will draw on many of the same participants.

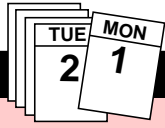
The thrust of the conference is to initiate a discussion between farmers and higher education faculty about the need for workforce personnel able to integrate the latest information technologies into agricultural resource management systems, and how the higher education community is preparing and can better prepare graduates to meet the industry's needs.

The conference will target two audiences: (1) those from the agricultural community who can benefit from the transfer of the latest information technologies into agricultural businesses—growers, processors, laborers, agricultural business leaders, providers of agricultural technologies, providers of relevant information technologies; and (2) those faculty from all three systems of higher education (the California Community Colleges, CSU and UC) who deliver agricultural education and outreach programs and those from fields involved in developing, integrating and delivering information technologies and management skills that are applicable to agricultural resource management, such as computer science, agricultural engineering, agricultural economics and management.

Conference panelists and presenters will be drawn from these same two groups, and there will be an emphasis on providing opportunities for audience input and discussion.

The JPC conference will be held at the Southern California Edison AgTAC Facility, which itself provides a high-technology infrastructure that the JPC plans to use to demonstrate some of the latest on-farm technologies.

Please hold Feb. 15, 2001, in your calendar. More details will be forthcoming.



COMING UP

NOVEMBER

Health and Safety in Western Agriculture: A Practical Approach

Nov. 5-7; Sacramento; Donna Dold (530/752-5253; <http://agcenter.ucdavis.edu>)

Ag Health & Safety Workgroup Mtg.

Nov. 8; Sacramento; Pat O'Connor-Marer (pjmarer@ucdavis.edu)

Cooperatives and Communities Conf.

Nov. 17-18; Oakland; Patty McGuire (530/752-2408; <http://cooperatives.ucdavis.edu/>)

Lygus Summit

Nov. 28; Visalia; Joann Coviello (559/646-6525; joann@uckac.edu)

DECEMBER

UC Executive Seminar

Dec. 4; Sacramento; <http://aic.ucdavis.edu>; or call Ag Issues Center (530/752-2320)

Almond Workgroup Meeting

Dec. 8; Modesto; Rick Buchner (rpbuchner@ucdavis.edu)

National Alfalfa Symposium

Dec. 10-12; Las Vegas; Dan Putnam (530/752-8982; dhputnam@ucdavis.edu)

Prune Workgroup Meeting

Dec. 12-13; Steve Southwick (smsouthwick@ucdavis.edu), Steve Sibbett (sibbett@bak2.light-speed.net)

JANUARY

California Weed Science Society Conf.

Jan. 8-10; Monterey; Wanda Graves (510/790-1252; wgraves431@aol.com)

SVJ Grape Symposium

Dec. 10; Bill Peacock (559/733-6458)

FEBRUARY

Odyssey 2001 (ANR Statewide Conf.)

Feb. 22-23; Riverside; <http://danr.ucop.edu/swcon/>

To list events, call 510/987-0631 or send to ANR Report

Pilot test (from p. 1)

real time and willing to put in a little extra effort and time, then we want to hear from you. Contact me, *Claudia Myers*, at camyers@ucdavis.edu or at 530/754-8537. Let me know what group or committee you represent, where the members are located and what computer equipment you have.

Myers is information technology manager for Communication Services.

Cooperatives center holds annual conference

The Center for Cooperatives is offering a reduced fee of only \$30 for ANR members to attend its Cooperatives and Communities Conference.

The annual two-day event is being held in Oakland Nov. 17-18. The focus this year will be on how cooperatives enhance communities, the economy and people's lives. Also featured is a legal seminar including the fundamentals of cooperative incorporation, alternative forms of incorporation and how to manage and build equity. *Paul Hazen*, president and CEO of the National Cooperative Business Association will be the keynote speaker. See "Coming Up" (at left) for registration info.

New advisor post (from p. 3)

Working collaboratively with other advisors, this position will do the following:

- acquire new information on invasive plants through a carefully designed research program in collaboration with colleagues from UC and other public and private institutions
- educate landowners and managers of private nature preserves and public agencies that manage public lands on identification and impacts of invasive plants on natural habitats and on environmentally appropriate control methods of these weeds
- achieve educational goals to reach the general public by disseminating information through various outlets, including newsletters, scholarly publications, workshops, meetings, tours, mass media and internet websites.

Prop. 39 (from p. 1)

rather than the two-thirds majority now required.

For more information on Proposition 39, please visit the proponent's website (www.YesonProp39.org) and the opponent's website (www.saveourhomes.com).

Job opportunities

Assistant CE Specialist

Location: UC Berkeley department of environmental science, policy and management—Division of Resource Institutions, Policy and Management
Closing date: Dec. 15

For more information, contact *Louise Fortmann* (510/643-6911; fortmann@nature.berkeley.edu).

Nutrition, Family and Consumer Science Advisor

Location: San Diego County
Closing date: Jan. 12
#ACCSO-00-02

Youth Development Advisor

Location: Santa Cruz (headquarters) and Monterey counties
Closing date: Jan. 26
#ACCSO-00-03

For more information on either listing, contact *Cheryl Gneckow* (cheryl.gneckow@ucr.edu; 909/787-3604; fax: 909/787-2328).

Thanks to *Pam Fabry, David Flattery, Jason Joseph, Pam Kan-Rice, Lorrie Mandorlao* for their contributions to this issue of *ANR Report*.

ANR REPORT

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Serving California through the creation, development and application of knowledge in agricultural, natural and human resources. We invite you to visit ANR's website: <http://danr.ucop.edu>, where you can also read *ANR Report* online by clicking on the publications button.

Send news items and comments to Gabriele Kassner, *ANR Report* editor, Office of Governmental & External Relations, 1111 Franklin St., 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607-5200. Telephone: 510/987-0631; fax: 510/465-2659; email: gabriele.kassner@ucop.edu

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